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Photo by Wednesday Aja
Design by Richie Beckman

HeyYou!

» ANONYMOUS

Raining Fish

Near the end of a long, lovely beach day, we were beyond relaxed. Until a loud *splap!* hit the sand right in front of us. I was jerked out of my reverie and looked to see what had dropped, what someone had thrown. What the what? It was a fish—a 6-inch perch or something. It's raining fish?!? My other half said he saw a couple of crows and a couple of seagulls swooping it up, then they disappeared above our umbrella. And then the fish hit. They'd been battling it out, and the prize dropped. The sweet family near us came to have a look, then the dad took pics of his little boys posing proudly with the dead fish. So happy summer, you fish/crows/seagulls!

HEY, YOU! Send anonymous thanks, confessions or accusations—changing or deleting the names of the guilty and innocent—to "Hey, You!" c/o *OC Weekly* 18475 Bandilier Circle, Fountain Valley, CA 92708 or email us at letters@ocweekly.com.

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RED MEAT
the griddle that spits back
from the secret files of
Max Cannon
I invited my girlfriend over to my place for a craft night of weeken- ore sarees needlepoint projects. I am never sure, but she kept when it almost threw the smell was makin' her gag
It was her own dang fault, though
If she would've showed up with some fabric we wouldn't have had to use them week-old pork chops I scrounged outta the trash can

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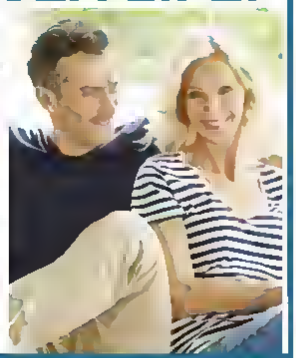

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'There Will Be Blood'

Maryland newspaper murderer has a history with *OC Weekly*

The man police arrested on June 28 for the lethal mass shooting at a Maryland daily newspaper repeatedly engaged *OC Weekly* as he stalked a daily reporter who'd left the *Capital Gazette* and landed at the *Orange County Register*.

moxley CONFIDENTIAL

»R. SCOTT MOXLEY

Twitter records show Jarrod Ramos, the accused killer of five people in Annapolis, reached out to me in June 2014, when I ignored him, he turned to then-*Weekly* editor Gustavo Arellano.

There's no mystery for Ramos' interest in the *Weekly*. Eric Hartley, a target of his ranting, was a competitor of mine on the courthouse beat.

There's also no mystery about what prompted the obsession with this solid, no-nonsense reporter. At the *Gazette* in 2011, Hartley wrote accurately about Ramos' criminal conviction stemming from the relentless harassment of a woman who'd spurned his affection on Facebook.

Ramos' obsession with the *Gazette* ended, at least in court, with a losing 2012 defamation lawsuit against Hartley but continued for years in the form of online stalking of the journalist. He created a Twitter account incorporating Hartley's name and image and sent him repeated messages encouraging him to commit suicide and hinting at homicide. "[I] will take glee when you kill yourself," Ramos wrote in September 2014.

Three months earlier, he sent a Tweet stating, "Hello, Eric Thomas Hartley. I want to play a game. It's called 'go f--k yourself.' If you survive, your test begins." He included a link to a YouTube video titled, "Oh, yes, there will be blood."

In another message, Ramos, who has worked as a federal government employee, told Hartley, "Do it now, report to hell."

Hartley was not at the June 28 crime scene. He now works as an editor at *The Virginian-Pilot* in Norfolk.

Those murdered at the *Gazette* were: Rebecca Smith, 34, sales assistant; Robert Hiaasen, 59, assistant editor and columnist; Gerald Fischman, 61, editorial page editor; John McNamara, 56, editor and writer; and Wendi Winters, 65, columnist.

Maryland prosecutors, who have filed five murder counts, said the shooting was the result of extensive planning and that Ramos unsuccessfully attempted to hide his identity by mutilating his fingers.

Jarred W Ramos @EricHartleyFrnd 28 Sep 2014
If anybody is wondering yes this is me.
watchingyou
Gustavo you maybe want to watch that you're not getting a little like Kushner yourself. Arrogance was his downfall and it could well be yours at the rate you're going. You want to attack Kushner? I totally get it. I also thought from the start that journalists so much liked hearing this fantasy of print journalism coming back and thriving by hiring more people and closing blogs, they never asked the questions journalists are supposed to ask.
But people are trying to point out to you this you're showing a pretty inappropriate glee at the loss of jobs, the pain of others and in fact, even if it was a stupid plan a plan that at least wasn't trying to junk the world and bulldoze whatever is left of OC. And you respond viciously. Oh, yeah, you're at an alt weekly snark is everything. Snark isn't everything, my friend and when people perceive you as mean and arrogant instead of clever maybe you should pay a little attention.

Jarred W Ramos @EricHartleyFrnd 8 Jun 2014
Eric Thomas Hartley finally found a lawsuit he can win. Helpful CA career move = 1-4 @RScottMoxley @danielvalentine
blogs.ocweekly.com/navelgazing/20...
Jarred W Ramos @EricHartleyFrnd 7 Jun 2014
Eric Thomas Hartley a first vague and mysterious tweet ever. Seeking guidance? An answer do it now report to Hell
Eric Hartley @ethartley
It a a journalist a job to ask that question, at that moment.

OC GREAT PARK LOOTER PASSES AWAY

Arnold Forde, one of Orange County's sleaziest political operatives who helped annually dram public funds for the proposed Great Park project in Irvine, died at age 82 on June 30, according to the Voice of OC.

For many of his final years, Forde lived well off a $100,000-per-month, no-benchmarks public-relations deal handed to him without competitive bidding by career politicians Larry Agran, Sukhee Kang and Beth Krom.

Forde received the windfall to supposedly perform public relations for the Great Park while it was nonexistent.

Under Agran and Forde's mismanagement, the Great Park project, arguably one of California's most corrupt public operations, made political insiders rich while handing residents empty promises for more than a decade.

District Attorney Tony Rackauckas, another jewel of corruption, refused to investigate the financial shenanigans that handed Forde, Agran's political consultant, at least $7.23 million while the park plan struggled with finances. Rackauckas and Forde were buddies since the early 1980s.

The ethically flimsy DA, who claims to be ultra-conservative, aided Agran, an unabashed liberal, in his campaigns by inaction as well as performing supportive election robo-calls.

In 2014, a numbskull *New York Times* writer celebrated Forde's wealth and expensive art purchases without mentioning how he looted the Great Park project, a move that earned a necessary *Weekly* correction. Agran, a career politician who threatened to sue this paper for exposing his corruption and ended up getting trampled in the voting booth, ran for president in 1992 but lost the primary to Bill Clinton.

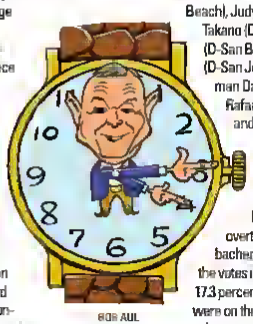
RSCOTTMOXLEY@OCWEEKLY.COM

Rouda v. Rohrabacher

» MATT COKER

The final primary-election count from the Orange County Registrar of Voters determined that Democrat Harley Rouda received the second-most votes in the 48th Congressional District race and will thereby face incumbent Representative Dana Rohrabacher (R-Putin's massage table) in November.

Fellow Democrat Hans Keirstead had the most second-place votes after the June 5 Election Day ballots were counted, but after all mail-in votes were added, Rouda had received 125 more votes than the stem-cell researcher. "We had a spirited primary, engaged voters and media sure the nation knows that we can flip the 48th in 2018," Keirstead said in his concession statement. "After weeks of hard work counting every ballot, I congratulate Harley Rouda on advancing to the general election to do just that."



BOB AUL

Keirstead was also among the Orange County Democrats who did not support Rouda in the primary yet have now revealed they will back the Laguna Beach businessman (and former Republican) in the general election. Rouda's victory also unearthed new support from several prominent Democrats, including California Lieutenant Governor Gavin Newsom, one of the two candidates for governor in November, and former Vermont governor Howard Dean, who went on to chair the Democratic National Committee through 2009.

Members of Congress Ted Lieu (D-Manhattan Beach) and Julia Brownley (D-Thousand Oaks) also jumped onto the Rouda train, joining colleagues who had backed him in the primary, such as Lou Correa (D-Santa Ana), Alan Lowenthal (D-Long Beach), Judy Chu (D-Claremont), Mark Takano (D-Riverside), Pete Aguilar (D-San Bernardino), Zoe Lofgren (D-San Jose), Brad Sherman (D-Sherman Oaks), Jared Huffman (D-San Rafael), Linda Sanchez (D-Norwalk) and her history-making sister Loretta Sanchez (D-Garden Grove, 1997-2017).

Despite high-powered support, Rouda, on paper, has a tough race ahead to overtake 30-year incumbent Rohrabacher, who received 30.3 percent of the votes in the primary to the Democrat's 17.3 percent. The names of 16 candidates were on the ballot for the 48th, which only sent the top two to the general election.

"Today, 70 percent of voters in the 48th District rejected Dana Rohrabacher," Rouda said upon the primary-election results being certified. "They sent a truly resounding statement that they're ready to say goodbye to the divisive and hateful politics of our failed incumbent congressman and Donald Trump."

Got Dana Watch fodder? Email mcoker@ocweekly.com.

Political Fútbol

» STEVE LOWERY

Uruguay vs. France

URUGUAY UPDATE: The first question about this country, the second smallest in South America, is how does one pronounce its name? Do it mellow, my friend, *mellow*. Mellow just like its flag, which is a gorgeous deep blue and white with a humanoid sun-god creature in the left panel that seems lifted from a Santana album—the one with the naked lady—wearing an expression that lies somewhere in that rich field between wisdom and medicated. It's fitting since the country not only is cool with same-sex marriage and a woman's right to choose, but also has an innovative policy for the legal production, sale and consumption of cannabis. So many things about Uruguay are awesome: 95 percent of its electricity comes from renewable energy; it's a founding member of the United Nations; it's one of the most liberal countries on Earth, ranking high globally for personal rights, tolerance and inclusion; and is a considerate and imaginative lover, we're assuming.

FRANCE UPDATE. We've always thought the French have been unfairly categorized as rude, it's been our experience that they are no more rude than anyone you meet parking in a too small Trader Joe's parking lot. Still, it's regrettable that French President Emmanuel Macron felt the need to bend over backward in his initial dealings with Donald Trump—as anyone who has dealt with Trump will tell you, bending over is just asking for trouble; of course, with that skeeze, as is standing up straight and walking while a woman. As with so many of Trump's relationships, this one soon cooled, then crashed, then self-immolated, especially after Trump said Macron's country would get better trade terms if it withdrew from the European Union because, to Trump, leaving the EU is as easy as ditching your gym membership or two or three wives. When asked about his conversations with Trump, Macron has demurred, quoting Bismarck: "If we explained to people how sausage is made, it's unlikely they'd keep eating them." Of course, Bismarck never met the "modern" Republican, who just can't seem to get enough of Trump's sausage, taking it anywhere, any time—standing up, bending over....

CONSENSUS. We love France, but Uruguay sounds almost too good to be true. Which is probably why *The Economist* a few years back named it "Country of the Year" after the original winner, Denmark, was found to have participated in "modeling" sessions deemed "too sausage-y." GO U!

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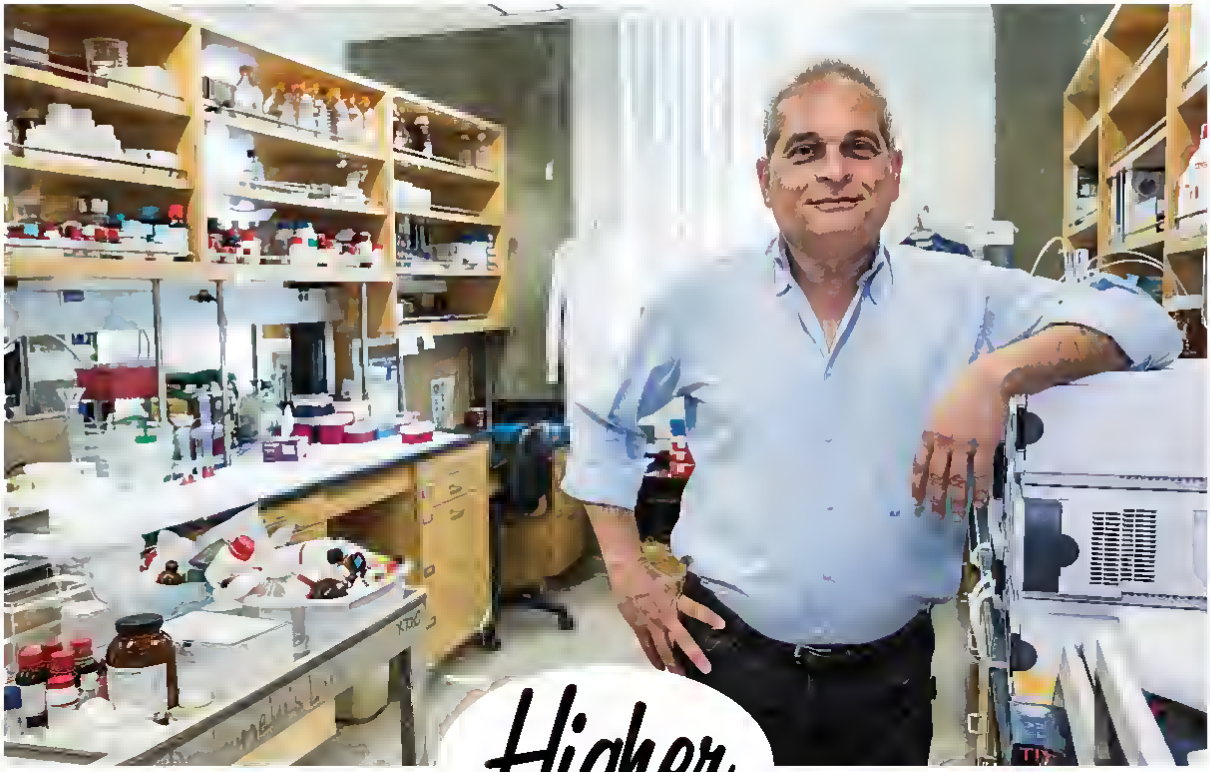


Higher EDUCATION

THANKS TO DR. DANIELE PIOMELLI, BIG THINGS ARE HAPPENING AT UC IRVINE'S NEW CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF CANNABIS

By Mary Cannon • Photos By Wednesday Aja

Irvine is mostly known for its pristinely manicured lawns, cookie-cutter houses, and a 10 p.m. nightlife curfew. In other words, suburbia at its dullest. But as of a month ago, the city will also be known for something else: UC Irvine's Center for the Study of Cannabis, a multidisciplinary program that blends the schools of law, medicine, science, business, public health and engineering.

The hallways of UCI's Gillespie Neuroscience building are lined with doors that stretch from carpet to ceiling. All of them look the same with the exception of one. From it hangs a hemp-woven textile featuring an image of a dark-haired woman with a large green fan-leaf behind her head, kind of like a peacock headdress. The words *Exportación* and *Puntas Del Oro* outlines the top portion of the image. The words *Marijuana* and *Fina Calidad Colombia* sits beneath the portrait.

If any other professor—especially in the neurosciences building—had a cannabis-related tapestry hanging on his or her door, it might be deemed inappropriate. But this particular decoration is accepted, even expected, as it leads to the office of Dr. Daniele Piomelli, a world-renowned endocannabinoid researcher and a professor of anatomy, neurobiology, pharmacology and biological chemistry at UCI. He's also the director of the university's new Center for the Study of Cannabis.

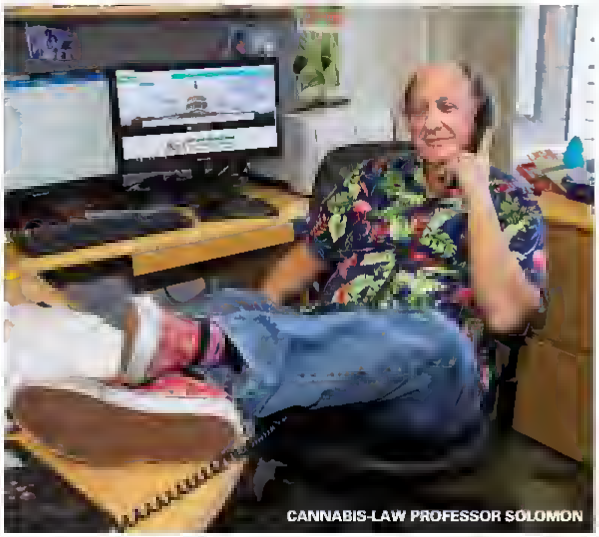
"I got this at a fair in San Bernardino," he says in an Italian accent as he points to the tapestry. He's likely referring to the *High Times* Cannabis Cup—or one of the cannabis festivals once regularly held at the NOS Events Center—but Piomelli didn't specify.

I am sitting at a conference table with UCI law professor Bob Solomon, who's a co-director of the new cannabis program. Piomelli walks toward us with an unopened, warm bottle of beer. "Have you seen this beer before?" he asks. "It's called the Hemporer!"

A colleague had given Piomelli the New Belgium beer as a congratulatory gift, the day before, the Center for the Study of Cannabis was officially approved as a recognized program through the University of California system. It also received confirmation for its first major grant of $10 million, which was facilitated through the Bureau of Cannabis Control (BCC), the Golden State's governing body for cannabis.

Piomelli has been studying the endocannabinoid system (a biological system in the human body that interacts with cannabis' chemical compounds, such as THC and CBD) for more than 25 years and is one of—if not *the*—leading endocannabinoid scientist in the world. He went to Columbia University in New York and studied under Nobel Prize winners Eric R. Kandel and Paul Greengard. He got involved in endocannabinoid research soon after its receptors were identified in the late 1980s. By the time Piomelli finished his postdoctoral research, more endocannabinoid discoveries had been

» CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



CANNABIS-LAW PROFESSOR SOLOMON

THE H[illegible]OMER, PIOMELLI, S[illegible]READS KNOWLEDGE

Higher EDUCATION

» FROM PAGE 9

unearthed, signaling to him that this specific realm of research was his life's path.

"As soon as the structure of anandamide was discovered, it was simple for me—the interest was already there," Piomelli told the *Weekly* in May 2017. "I immediately jumped on it because it seemed to me no one knew anything about the endocannabinoid system or cannabinoid drugs, and I've always been fascinated by the way the two are connected. I had a very small lab, and I only had three people working with me. I called them up, and I said, 'Listen, folks, this discovery changes my life. Stop doing whatever you're doing or finish it up. We're going to work on this 100 percent of the time going forward.'"

Known as the "bliss molecule," the naturally produced anandamide binds to the body's cannabinoid receptors, known as CB1 and CB2. (*Ananda* is the Sanskrit word for bliss, happiness, joy and delight.) This molecule is responsible for producing feelings of happiness. Anandamide also aids in managing memory, sleep, motivation, higher thought processes and movement control, and it plays an important role in many physiological processes including pain management, appetite and fertility.

The anandamide's structure was discovered in 1994, leading scientists such as Piomelli on the path of endocannabinoid research and, thus, cannabis science—an area people still know relatively nothing about thanks to the plant's Schedule I classification. Four years later, Piomelli began teaching neuroscience at UCI and has lead an endocannabinoid research program for the past 20 years, mentoring other scientists from around the world.

On July 13, 2016, Piomelli appeared at a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing to testify on cannabis as medicine. Little did he know that in the following few days, the seeds for the multidisciplinary program would be cultivated. "Former state Senator Joe Dunn came into my office and said, 'I didn't know we had people working on cannabis on campus.' I said, 'Oh, I've been here only 20 years,'" Piomelli recalls, laughing.

Dunn, who's currently the assistant dean for external relations and a lecturer at the UCI School of Law, instantly expressed an interest in creating a multidisciplinary program. Piomelli wasn't sure how to go about conquering such a monstrously sized task, but Dunn said he'd talk to some people.

"I didn't want to spend too much time on it or worry about it too much," Piomelli says. "I was very much concerned that the university, being a little bit conservative—and rightly so at times—wouldn't really support me."

A few months passed, and there was no word from Dunn. Then, like divine timing, UCI announced it was accepting proposals for on-campus multidisciplinary activities. Piomelli called Dunn, and they both agreed it was an ideal time to pitch the cannabis program. They got support from a number of other UCI deans and professors, but Piomelli says it was a killer letter of recommendation from Erwin Chemerinsky—the former dean of the UCI School of Law, now a dean at UC Berkeley's law school—that made the difference.

The seeds for the Center for the Study of Cannabis officially germinated. With some funding help from the university, Piomelli began hosting a series of seminars and panels focusing on cannabis education that were attended by industry stakeholders, banking representatives, lawyers, members of the university's faculty, trade unions, politicians and law-enforcement professionals. During this time, Solomon and Piomelli finally connected and decided to tackle the multidisciplinary project together.

Before working at UCI, Solomon had spent years at Yale Law School, operating one of the largest interdisciplinary programs in the United States' legal-education system. This interwoven curriculum included architecture, business, international relations, law, medicine and nursing. "One of the reasons I consider myself to have won the job lottery is that I get to work every day with young, diverse, people," says Solomon. "It's from working with diverse people that we can learn so much. We don't understand the world without that."

Three-quarters of a gourmet chocolate cake topped with soft powdered sugar sits on the conference table. It was also brought in celebration of the center's funding and official creation. "You have to try some," Piomelli enthusiastically says, assuring me there is no "funny stuff" in it. "I made it from scratch with no flour, by the way. So just in case you are a celiac, you can eat it!"

While chomping on cake—which tastes like a homemade fudge bar—Piomelli explains that although this program is unusual for Orange County, there are universities throughout the United States and abroad that are starting various types of education-based cannabis projects. UCLA has a Cannabis Research Initiative and a Cannabinoid Affinity Group, UC San Diego has the Center for Medicinal Cannabis Research, and UC Davis has a Cannabis Research Initiative—all of which provide students with interrelated classes. From Harvard to the University of Vermont to Northern Michigan University, higher education in America is embracing the movement. Universities in Israel, Spain and Canada are also known for their research programs and classes, too.

But what makes UCI's project unique, according to Piomelli, is that they're building the program to explore cannabis from a multidisciplinary perspective, with the medical and law schools as the primary foundations. Built on that infrastructure is a network of other schools on campus—such as public health, business and engineering—adding to the conversation. "The goal is to have expertise in a whole gamut of areas that are relevant to cannabis," says Piomelli.

In this upcoming academic year, both Solomon and Piomelli are offering courses on cannabis in their respective fields. "Next spring, I'm teaching a course called 'Cannabis and the Law,'" says Solomon. "I already have lined up an environmentalist who wants to talk about use of public lands and land use in general. There's

going to be a session on the business-organization aspect of the industry; [Piomelli] will do a session on the science and also current research in what we're testing. There will be a section on the regulations in California, which inevitably are going to change. We'll look at the whole federal history and current federal law, law enforcement, the social effects, what should we do about school discipline."

Piomelli will also teach his own two-hour neurosciences course on cannabis. Last year, he offered a short cannabis lesson that was open to anyone willing to show up. "I was expecting there to be 10, maybe 20 people total," he recalls. "Literally, I had people lined up around the building. The students and professor in the class after mine were pushing me out—that's how long I was there. Because of the interest, I ended up holding a better-planned one-hour session, and it was a great success—the class was full. Next year, we actually have a formal neuroscience course, two hours on cannabis. We are the only university in the country to do that."

The Center for the Study of Cannabis is working with the United Food and Commercial Workers (UFCW) on an apprenticeship program. Though one can major in horticultural studies or get a degree in business, the cannabis plant and industry has its own nuances. As the labor union that has been predominantly utilized by the cannabis industry since 2010, UFCW aims to help provide students who are serious about getting into the industry with the skills needed.

"A worker needs to have a basic understanding of what's going on from cultivation all the way to sales," says Piomelli. "Right now, you have these folks in the dispensaries who literally know nothing about cannabis, except that they've tried it and they've tasted it many times. So if someone goes in there saying they have back pain and want to know what strain to use, and they say, 'Ummm, try this one'—that's not a good way of doing things. An apprenticeship would help change this."

Though the new program will be essential in encouraging the shift toward legitimacy, major and minor hurdles lie ahead thanks to the plant's Schedule I status. As of late June, it has yet to have a website with the name "Center for the Study of Cannabis" that's affiliated with UCI. According to Piomelli, the bureaucratic UC system requires a ton of steps and approval. But considering it just received official funding, there's a chance that might change soon.

Additional funding also continues to be a concern, as Solomon explains the university might disagree with or question contributions of any kind from the cannabis industry. Most multidisciplinary centers—and programs in general—accept contributions from donors without problem, but, Solomon admits, the industry has some serious issues that need to be solved before it will ever be that way with cannabis. "The question always is: Where is the money coming from?" says Solomon. "Additionally, how is all of this affecting the consumer? There was a case in Colorado where a consumer sued for pesticide poisoning. That's going to happen, you can guarantee that."

Though the distributor in Colorado won, Solomon adds, "Don't forget that the tobacco companies won a lot of cases before they lost."

The lack of federal legal stability also makes the Center for the Study of Cannabis increasingly difficult to operate. But Piomelli hopes the program will provide the data necessary to change that. "We managed to convince the university that it's important to advocate for research," says Piomelli. "So they asked us to write a paper that they can use to convince other universities, outside the University of California system, to pressure and push the legislators on the federal level to make researching cannabis okay."

The objective, Piomelli explains, is to get an exemption on Schedule I obligations to carry out research in a publicly funded university. In order to carry out such research,

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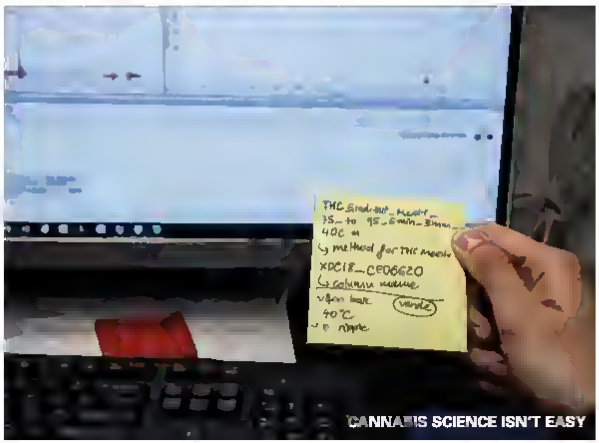

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MDA Summer Hame
SUNDAY JULY 8

Styx Xperiance
SATURDAY JULY 28

EyeDentity ft. Diana Purim & Krishna Baaker
SUNDAY JULY 29

FUTURE EVENTS

Atlantic Crassing - Rad Stewart Tribute
SATURDAY AUGUST 4

Labsterfest
SUNDAY AUGUST 5

Turn the Page - a Tribute ta Bab Seger & The Silver Bullet Band
SATURDAY AUGUST 11

Pacific Faad & Wine Festival
SATURDAY & SUNDAY AUGUST 18 - 19

80's an the Bay
FRIDAY AUGUST 31

Baots an the Beach
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 1

Led Zepagain w/ Petty & The Heartshakers
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 2

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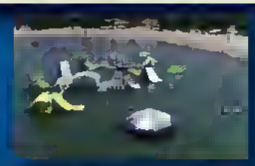

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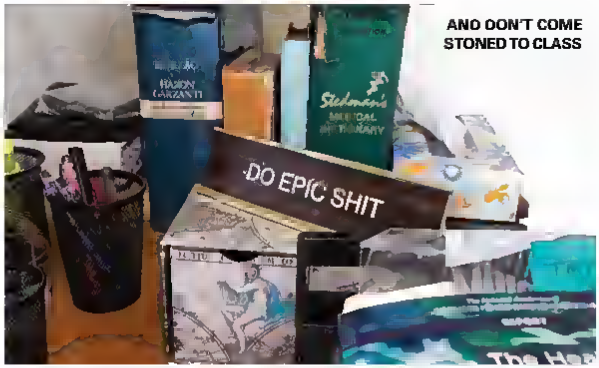

AND DON'T COME STONED TO CLASS

Higher EDUCATION

» FROM PAGE 11

the university must be accredited. "That's the level of advocacy we could possibly do," Piomelli says. "Advocacy for research, advocacy for data. Anecdotal evidence does not stand as real data, which is why we want to provide the facts on cannabis: so people can make informed decisions about everything from health to policy."

Piomelli and Solomon go back and forth about living in a world of "post-facts," or appeals to emotion. But Piomelli says there are some growing correlations that are shown to be in favor of cannabis. In February, UCI held a conference on cannabis and the opioid epidemic. There was a panel on legal cannabis and its potential impact on the use of opioids, addiction and the drugs' lethality. Just a few months later, a number of papers appeared that showed that in places where cannabis is legal and available, opioid use has dropped.

"We're striving for light, not smoke," says Solomon. "We want to be the source of cannabis data for people around the world on a number of topics. I am a strong believer that we make terrible public policy decisions because we don't know enough and people in different fields don't communicate with one another enough. The most important things to me are figuring out how things work and trying to make them work a little better."

Via the Center for the Study of Cannabis, Piomelli wants to understand how cannabis impacts people with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). "This is a question that is a lot more iffy than the question of pain," he says. "With pain, I think, the evidence is already out there; we just need to buckle it up. With PTSD, there is a lot more research that needs to be done."

Piomelli also seeks to know the impact of cannabis on pregnant women and fetuses. A growing, albeit controversial, trend is mothers using cannabis products while pregnant to help with the discomforts of carrying a child, including morning sickness. Because cannabis is an herb, many believe it is less harmful than the pharmaceuticals a doctor may prescribe to treat such conditions.

He points out that there are potential impacts that could last beyond adolescence and into adulthood. "We do not have that data yet, and we need to err on the side of caution because who truly knows if you're causing harm to your baby?" Piomelli says. "What I do know is the idea that cannabis is harmless because it's a plant is a wrong logic. Arsenic is from the earth, and so is opium. For every substance, there's going to be a dose level where toxicity will occur."

Piomelli explains that the questions of cannabis around PTSD and pregnancy are highly complex. But he's determined to find the answers in the next five years. "They might not be conclusive, but they will be substantial and hold much greater weight than the anecdotal stories being used as evidence and data today."

We also know little to nothing about hemp. According to Piomelli, the Center for the Study of Cannabis recently applied for funding to join UC San Diego and UC Davis in studying such questions as why hemp has less THC than the other cannabis plants and if it has any utility in pharmacology. "This plant has been around for hundreds of thousands of years," says Piomelli, "and we don't have any data on it. Believe it or not, no one can tell you why this plant has so many different varieties or how it can be best used."

The next several years are going to be crucial for the cannabis industry in terms of science and discovery, and thanks to UC Irvine, Orange County will play a major role in that innovation. "Given the heated rhetoric that surrounds the topic of cannabis, the interdisciplinary and groundbreaking research led by Dr. Piomelli and Professor Solomon is more important than ever," says L. Song Richardson, dean of UCI's School of Law. "It is an honor to support their critical work through the UCI Center for the Study of Cannabis."

Piomelli is thrilled to contribute a legitimate body of well-rounded research to the field of cannabis. "It is with much pride that we are able to do this," he says, looking at Solomon. "We're truly living in high times."

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Upcoming Events

MissionFest ™
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San Juan Capistrano - July 7
For ticket info: missionfest.com

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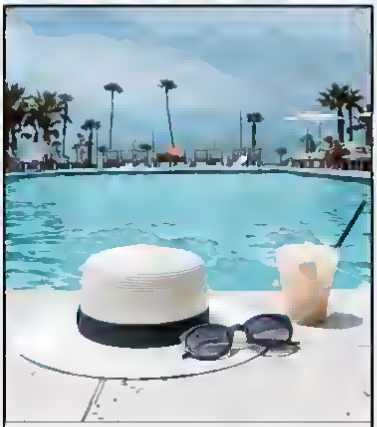
OCGMC.org - 949 854 4640

Messages

GIA

G a is a magnificent big boned 5 year old girl who is incredibly smart. This girl needs a job to do! She is very strong and active and requires someone with previous shepherd experience. Gia knows many commands and she is eager to please. She is not good with other dogs or cats, so requires a home where she can be the queen. Gia would thrive n a home that understands the complex nature of the German Shepherd. To learn more about her please visit gsroc.org

Featured This Week



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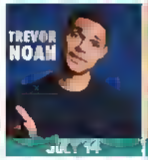

JULY 14

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JULY 25

JULY 26

JULY 27

JULY 28

JULY 29

AUGUST 1

AUGUST 2

AUGUST 3

AUGUST 4

AUGUST 5

AUGUST 8

AUGUST 9

AUGUST 10 & 11

AUGUST 12

AUGUST 16 & 17

AUGUST 15

AUGUST 24

AUGUST 25

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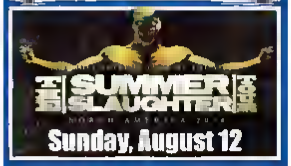

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Friday, August 24

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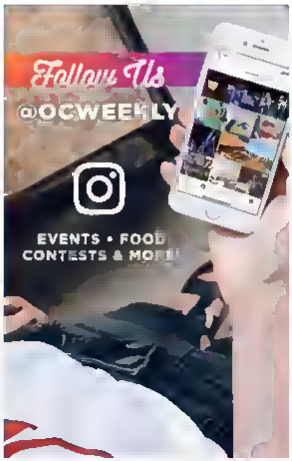

*calendar

thursday›
JERSEY BOY'S BACK IN TOWN

RICHARD ELDUD

fri/07/06

[COMEDY]

BACK IN THE GAME

Joel McHale

Despite being one of the better-known hosts and comedians working today, Joel McHale will forever be linked to *Community*, even more so than the long-running *The Soup*. As Jeff Winger, the lead character on a show that featured many future A-list talents and writers, McHale built a cult following. The 46-year-old found new life hosting his namesake program on Netflix, once again taking a sharp look at pop culture through topical comedy, with a wide array of celebrity guests, funny skits and clips. As for his standup, McHale remains one of the quickest-witted comics out there, proving that there's more to his schtick than just commenting on TV talk shows and reality stars.

Joel McHale at the Brea Improv, 120 S. Brea Blvd., Brea, (714) 482-0700, breaimprov.com. 7:30 & 9:45 p.m., also Sat. $30-$80. 21+. —WYOMING REYNOLDS

[CONCERT]

Sonidero!

Celso Piña

It's the weekend, and what better way to celebrate than partying with Celso Piña. The accordion god/singer/composer has amassed thousands of fans for his music, which blends *norteña* sounds with seductive *cumbia*, *sonidero*, hip-hop, tropical, and R&B rhythms. While the seasoned musician has been performing for decades with numerous instrumental ensembles, his name alone signals to fans of all ages that it's time to hit up the club and join the Monterey-born Piña in a free-for-all. Don't miss this chance to go wild on the dance floor with the legend himself at Marty's On Newport for what will surely be a late-night bender.

MORE ONLINE
OCWEEKLY.COM

Celso Piña at Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995, martysonnewport.com. 9 p.m. $25. 21+. —AIMEE MURILLO

sat/07/07

[FESTIVAL]

MISSIONARY STYLE

MissionFest

On your mark... get set... go... to MissionFest, where from noon to 3 p.m., there will be wine, craft beer and food sampling (included with admission). Phase two takes place from 3 to 6 p.m., when guests can enjoy the musical portion of the show with the Zen String Girls (a.k.a. the Charlie's Angels of strings) and the 14-piece Sensation Show Band (complete with singers, musicians and dancers). While this is all going on, MissionFest guests can also peruse the event's art gallery, get their smoke on in the cigar lounge or experience some on-site fine-dining opportunities. Join more than 65 brands and vendors for an elegant party on this post-Independence Day weekend!

MissionFest at Rancho Mission Viejo Riding Park, 30753 Avenida La Pata, San Juan Capistrano, (949) 240-3363, missionfest.com. Noon. $89-$139. —SCOTT FEINBLATT

[FILM]

Family Size!

Honey, I Shrunk the Kids

The '80s were an *interesting* decade for family films, for how else could a movie about a back inventor building a machine that shrinks his children after a baseball breaking through a window activates it get made and released by Disney? This flick packs enough adult-appropriate humor to keep the film fresh after all these years, while giant-sized props, animatronic insects and stop-motion animation retain its fantastical quality. Whether you're reliving the adventure of the Szalinski and Thompson kids journeying back to their original size or introducing the young'uns to the film for the first time, sit back for this outdoor movie screening while keeping in mind that no matter what size you are, the world is a jungle out there!

Honey, I Shrunk the Kids outdoor screening at Craig Regional Park, 3300 N. State College Blvd., Fullerton, (714) 973-3180, ocparks.com. 6 p.m. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

sun/07/08

[ART]

Living Art

Festival of Arts Pageant of the Masters

Besides the Sawdust Art Festival, the other annual summerlong fête to look forward to is the Festival of Arts Pageant of the Masters, for which performers act out tableaux vivants. This year's theme, "Under the Sun," honors impressionists and plein air painters from early 20th-century Laguna Beach. Artists from around the world left their indoor studios to set up easels and paint the beachside landscape in a new, distinct style. Shows happen nightly and concurrently with the Fine Arts Show, so take in all the art and storytelling you can handle this summer!

Festival of Arts Pageant of the Masters at Festival of Arts Grounds, 650 Laguna Canyon Rd., Laguna Beach, (949) 497-6582, www.foapom.com. 8:30 p.m. $20-$150. —AIMEE MURILLO

[FOOD & DRINK]

How We Bean

Rancho Gordo Supper

Beans aren't the most glamorous meal, but when cooked and prepared just right, they become a feast fit for royals. Napa's Rancho Gordo—a grower and supplier of a range of beans, with different shapes, colors, sizes and tastes—has teamed up with star gourmet chefs to prepare a one-of-a-kind, delectable, three-course dinner at one of the few Southern California-based distributors of its wares, Alta Baja Market in Santa Ana. There will be two seatings, with options to pair each meal with wine or purchase the Rancho Gordo cookbook to make your own fabulous bean dinners at home. Truly a must-attend event for foodies and chefs alike!

Rancho Gordo Supper at Alta Baja Market, 201 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, (714) 783-2252, www.altabajamarket.com. 3 & 5 p.m. $50-$100. —AIMEE MURILLO

MICHAEL McDONALD
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mon/07/09

[FILM]

McFlyyy!

Back to the Future

Steven Spielberg once called *Back to the Future* "the greatest *Leave It to Beaver* episode ever produced"—and that *Leave It To Beaver*-ness is probably a big part of why the film is regarded so affectionately today. It was made for wholesome teenagers, but those teenagers of the 1980s are wholesome adults with kids now, and this one-time nostalgia vehicle now offers a whole new source of nostalgia to another generation. Except for director Robert Zemeckis' don't-remake-it principles, it'd be as ripe for revisiting as *Star Wars*. Even though it's a movie about a changeable past, it's now safely set to stay exactly as it always was—and it's safe to say your kids are gonna love it, too.

Back to the Future at Segerstrom Center for the Arts, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa (714) 556-2787, www.scfta.org. 8 p.m. Free. —CHRIS ZIEGLER

tue/07/10

[FILM]

We All Live In A . . .

Yellow Submarine

For years, Regency South Coast Village has dedicated regular time slots to bringing classic films back to the big, silver screen. Today, it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the release of *Yellow Submarine*. If you're unfamiliar, it's the '60s pop-art cartoon in which the Beatles travel through trippy scenarios to save Pepperland from nightmarish, music-hating villains. And though the cartoon Beatles are voiced by actors, the real ones do show up at the end. If you *are* already familiar with the film, the only thing you need to know are show times.

Yellow Submarine at Regency South Coast Village, 1561 Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701, regencymovies.com. 7:30 p.m. $8. —ERIN DEWITT

wed/07/11

[THEATER]

Little Company Together

A Midsummer Night's Dream

Between two original 1960s UC Irvine structures, weirdly iconic buildings designed by architect William Pereira, is constructed each summer a startlingly colorful bespoke miniature Elizabethan theater. The 130-seat replica hosts the New Swan Shakespeare Festival, its venue and programming dreamed up by the Claire Trevor School of the Arts, with accomplished alums among the cast members offering performances so immediate, vivid and close-up audience members feel like collaborators. It's the best local performance of the justifiably popular *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, a play in which "reason and love keep little company together," even as this little theater company dreams big.

A Midsummer Night's Dream at New Swan Shakespeare Festival at UC Irvine Gateway Commons, near Campus and West Peltason drives, Irvine, (949) 824-2787, newswanshakespeare.com. 8 p.m. Through Aug. 31. $25-$50. —ANDREW TONKOVICH

[COMEDY]

BACK IN TOWN
Paul Reiser

His name might not immediately pop up on your radar, but we guarantee Paul Reiser has made a huge dent in film and television. As an actor, comic and writer, he has appeared on, created or written for numerous Emmy-winning television shows, including the long-running NBC sitcom *MadAboutYou*, *StrangerThings*, Amazon's *Red Oaks* and *There's ... Johnny*. Film-wise, Reiser has lent his acting talents to the Oscar-winning *Whiplash*, *Diner*, *The Little Hours*, *One Night at McCool's*, *Beverly Hills Cop* and *The Book of Love*, to name a few. With more adventurous TV roles on the way, it will be a blast to see Reiser dominate the medium even more, but for now, kick back and listen to what the seasoned comedian has to say about anything and everything on his hilarious mind.

Paul Reiser at the Irvine Improv, 527 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 854-5455, irvine.improv.com. 8 p.m. $20. 18+. —AIMEE MURILLO

thu/07/12

[CONCERT]

JERSEY BOY
Frankie Valli

There's no mistaking Frankie Valli's signature falsetto, but it may not have become nearly as iconic without the songwriting of Bob Gaudio, who penned some of Valli's greatest hits, including "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like a Man" and "Rag Doll." Valli's crew this time around is the Pacific Symphony orchestra, and together, they'll pay tribute to some of the Four Seasons' most beloved tunes—and no doubt throw the *Grease* theme song in there, as well. At age 84, Valli's a living legend of the '60s pop era, and this might be one of your last chances to experience one of the most renowned voices of a generation.

Frankie Valli with the Pacific Symphony at Pacific Amphitheatre at OC Fairgrounds, 100 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 708-1870, www.pacamp.com. 8 p.m. $40-$75. —SR DAVIES

[ART]

On Display Now
'Cliff Cramp: Art & Entertainment'

Anyone who's interested in fantastical concept design, illustration and pop culture will love the work of Cliff Cramp. Easily this generation's answer to artistic greats such as Frank Frazetta, Cramp employs a robust scenic design along with his vision of beloved fantasy film characters from *Star Wars*, *Lord of the Rings*, *Indiana Jones*, even *Stranger Things*. His current show at the Great Park Gallery allows visitors to fully take in eyefuls of his magnificent work, made on both traditional and digital mediums for commercial clients including Dark Horse Comics, Lucasfilm and Nickelodeon. Enjoy the amazing visual talents of Cramp side by side with some of the Cal State Fullerton alumni to whom he taught illustration.

"Cliff Cramp: Art & Entertainment" at Great Park Gallery, 6950 Marine Way, Irvine; www.cityofirvine.org. Noon. Through Aug. 19. Free. —AIMEE MURILLO

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Smoking the Competition

The Q Joint serves barbecue by a certified judge

BY EDWIN GOEI

In Texas, Missouri and Tennessee, barbecue tends to happen when you least expect it. You can be driving, minding your own business, when the aroma of brisket suddenly wafts into your open window. I've gone to those states specifically to eat barbecue at restaurants such as Pecan Lodge in Dallas' Deep Ellum, Killen's in Pearland, Texas, and Corky's in Memphis—but in truth, I could've just wandered the highways aimlessly and eventually come upon great barbecue by someone who has set up a smoker on some random street corner.

In Kansas City, Kansas, a gas station happens to be the home of a barbecue joint that the late Anthony Bourdain put on his list of "13 Places to Eat Before You Die." Joe's Kansas City Bar-B-Que is now considered smoked-meat mecca—but even this started when a couple of barbecue obsessives bought a portable smoker, took their setup to barbecue competitions, and, after winning a whole bunch of first-place trophies, set up shop at that gas station.

The owner of the Q Joint, a new food stall at the SoCo Farmers' Market in Costa Mesa, also has ties to the barbecue circuit—not as a contestant, but rather a judge. Benny Chang is a member of the Kansas City BBQ Society, a Master BBQ Judge and an instructor at the California BBQ Association.

And now he's decided to dive into the trenches to be judged by the likes of you and me. You can find Chang in the closest thing you can get in Orange County to those roadside set-ups: inside a tent at the end of the SoCo parking lot on Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m., doling ribs, brisket, chicken, pulled pork and burnt ends into Styrofoam containers. Behind his tent is a smoker the size of a dorm-room refrigerator.

You could get Chang's meats in any number of permutations, but the Judge's Box—which comes with barbecue beans, coleslaw and a slice of butter-soaked Texas toast—has all of them in one shot. Your eyes will gravitate immediately toward the chicken. Completely deboned and meticulously tucked into a perfect poultry pillow, the case made from its own taut skin, this is thigh meat as it is always presented at those barbecue contests. And the care and detail Chang puts into them is evident. He braises the meat in butter, rubs it with spices, smokes it for two hours with California red oak, then slathers it in sauce. The results straddle the sweet spot between dark-meat moistness and white-meat uniformity—probably the best barbecued chicken I've ever had.

JANELLE ARBALLO

The pulled pork is also excellent. Marinated for a day, then smoked for 12 hours with hickory, it weeps so much juice it's almost a stew. I haven't had it in one of Chang's pulled pork sandwiches, but if I did, I don't think it would require any condiments, this pork is its own sauce. And then there's Chang's miraculous barbecue beans, which he packs with so much chopped brisket and other meats that it's more protein than bean, more meal than side dish.

His coleslaw, however, is just coleslaw. And his brisket, cut in thick slices, falters when it's judged against his own burnt ends, which come in two precious bite-sized morsels rimmed with a concentrate of jet-black bark, melted collagen and gushing fat. Though very tender, the brisket is dryer by comparison and lacking the elasticity you expect when you try to pull it apart with your fingers. To be fair, I found the brisket at Joe's Kansas City Bar-B-Que also paled when eaten after its burnt ends.

Chang prepares his St. Louis pork ribs with the same kind of care he takes with the chicken, giving them a "competition trim" so there's just enough exposed bone to hold onto. And after being smoked for five hours with applewood, the meat ends up as ruddy as Chinese char siu. You do, however, need sauce for this. And the one that Chang has formulated for it is wonderful. It's tangy and sweet at first, then builds to a slow, long-lasting chile burn. In fact, its hotness sticks around for hours at the back of your throat, longer than the stand itself lasts at the Farmers' Market.

But there's something about procuring barbecue from a temporary structure such as this that's always better than Lucille's. It's probably because I know the person who chooses to haul all that equipment out there isn't doing it without a passion for the art—or, as in the case of Benny Chang, without knowing what it takes for a judge such as him to award a first-place trophy.

THE Q JOINT
at SoCo Farmers' Market, 3315 Hyland Ave., CostaMesa; www.theqjointbbq.com. Open Sat., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Judge's Box meal, $34. No alcohol.

WHAT THE ALE
» GREG NAGEL

Summer Tour

STEREO BREWING
950 S. Via Rodeo, Placentia, (714) 993-3390, www.stereobrewing.com

Stereophonic beer: Not necessarily an idea, but a way of life at this hi-fidelity brewery in Placentia. The vinyl records only stop spinning long enough to put a fresh one on, and the beer never seems to stop flowing.

I met co-owner/brewer Rick Smets at Noble Ale Works' second-anniversary party in 2012. "We should probably chat because I'm going to open a brewery here in OC called Stereo," he had said. I'm pretty sure we geeked out over our love for the band Pavement, including my favorite song of theirs ("Stereo"), then departed after a Grill Vogel-inspired power embrace/business hug.

Now just older than a year and a half, Stereo has remained a constant as a place to geek out on not only beer, but also music. Malt and hops symphonically entertain your taste buds in the tasting room, where you're most likely to shazam a song or even drunkenly sing along to classics.

All summer, Stereo is loading up the Econoline van for a U.S. tour, offering a coveted roadie lanyard. Destination? Music city-inspired beers. The debut is Placentia, which starts off the set list with a pint of valencia orange-infused IPA, actual pulp seemingly crowdsurfing on top of the white, hoppy head, perhaps providing scurvy fighting powers.

The inspiration then heads to Austin, Atlanta, Nashville, Miami, Boston, Seattle, and even a bonus show in Honolulu! A new beer will be released every Thursday throughout the season in Stereo's Placentia taproom. Get all the stamps on your roadie lanyard and unlock cool swag such as a concert shirt and pin—even VIP entrance to the brewery's second-anniversary party in October.

LETTERS@OCWEEKLY.COM

GREG NAGEL

The Best Combo

Wok N Roll is the Chinese takeout spot Bourdain would have wanted

SARAH BENNETT

There's an episode of *Parts Unknown* in which the late Anthony Bourdain explores a pre-Harvey Houston through the lens of its growing diversity. To view it as a landing point for newcomers from around the world, Bourdain insisted that the episode not include any white Texans; instead, he stops at a packed Indian grocery store, eats dinner with West African refugees who run an urban farm, hangs with rapper Slim Thug at an East Texas barbecue joint, and drives to the Gulf to eat at a convenience store that serves Vietnamese and Mexican food with equal amounts of authenticity and pride.

"Immigrants, refugees and non-white Americans have been transforming the city and culture of Houston for years," Bourdain's iconic voice explains. "Welcome to America, people."

It seemed only appropriate that this episode was playing on the flat-screen TV as I walked into Wok N Roll on PCH for a New Orleans chicken lunch combo.

If Bourdain ever came to Long Beach—a city that's been dense, diverse and majority minority since at least 1990—he might have landed at Wok N Roll, a takeout institution founded 30 years ago by Taiwanese immigrants that's among the oldest operating Chinese restaurants in the city. Smushed in a college-adjacent strip mall along with Cyclo Noodles, Charo Chicken and Valentino's Pizza, Wok N Roll has morphed to accommodate both new neighbors and changing palates. "You can have food on the street or food from a French chef—he knew it was all the same," said the owner's son, Kent Kuo, while discussing Bourdain's legacy.

Kuo is a vegan who has been working in the family business for two decades, watching it move further from the fast-food cliches of Americanized Chinese dishes in dozens of steam trays. These days, Wok N Roll's healthier approach means a nearly empty pre-batch section, longer wait times for fresh meals and slightly higher prices (though lunch combos remain less than $10), but it also attracts a diverse clientele that uses the black-and-white-tiled dining room as a lunchtime meeting spot, a gathering place to watch local sports games and a home away from home, where everyone gets treated like family.

I knew Wok N Roll was special when I first moved to town because it was always the preferred cheap Chinese spot of Long Beach lifers from all backgrounds. Some knew about it because their parents took them there as kids. Others were lucky enough as adults to discover its MSG-free kitchen, its made-to-order plates and soups, and its expansive vegetarian menu, which launched 15 years ago.

According to Kuo, his dad started accommodating his customers' specialty diets and picky eaters because other places would not; he purchased soy-based products to swap out for meat and switched around recipes so that all the chow mein and fried rice options are vegan. In an interview with the *Press-Telegram* in 2007, Kuo's father, Max (who says his wife calls him a "cookaholic"), explained that having a menu with low fat and low salt was easy because it's more like the cuisine in northern China, where the family is originally from.

Everyone I know seems to have a standing order at Wok N Roll, though the 50-plus dishes on the vegan menu now draw in the majority of new clientele. (The kitchen also recently switched over to offer only all-white-meat chicken!) If Kent isn't behind the counter to greet you when you arrive, he's in the back preparing an order. He'll start on yours as soon as the server up front barks it into a microphone, when you hear the distinctive "ting" of a service bell from somewhere behind the dry storage, you'll know it's done, ready to be scooped out of a warm metal bowl and into a styrofoam container so that it resembles the classic Chinese takeout of the past.

"Right now, we all need to get along with each other," Kent said as another episode of *Parts Unknown* began playing in the background. "It's like what Anthony Bourdain said: No matter how poor or rich you are, everyone can come together around good food."

LONG BEACH LUNCH
» SARAH BENNETT

WOK N ROLL
4756 E. Pacific Coast Hwy., Long Beach, (562) 597-8783, woknrolllongbeach.com.

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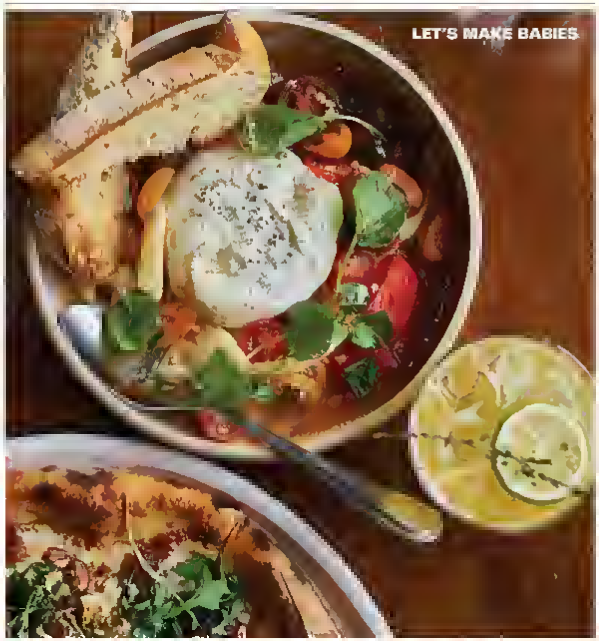

GREG NAGEL

Better Together

Cucina Enoteca's all-new cocktail menu

A good bartender is like the most trusted hair stylists: They have similar aprons, and sometimes that boost of confidence you get with a great drink can be matched with getting a spiffy haircut. When you find the right bar/hair person, it's sort of a match made for life. And if they leave their job you're likely to follow them to their new spot to keep getting that same fade.

When I heard the creator of one of my favorite cocktails in OC (Cigarettes & Coffee at ARC) had moved on to serve as beverage director of the Urban Kitchen group, I knew a visit to its closest property, Cucina Enoteca at Fashion Island, was in order. "Yeah, almost everything on the drinks menu is new," says Koire Rogers of the 11 additions to the updated menu. Each one focuses on a flavor profile leaning on what Italy does best (amaro and vermouth) mixed with what Koire does best, intertwining them with tastes of what coastal California is thirsty for.

Take, for example, Smoke Signals, a Mezcal-based drink that resembles a margarita in appearance, but it unfolds into a serious form of long distance communication between ingredients. Passionfruit (Brazil) Yellow Chartreuse (France), Del Maguey Mezcal (Oaxaca, Mexico) and lemon hit your palate like comic-book fight sounds—Wham! Kapow! Zwap! The drink is brightly vibrant and complex, with layers of fruit and smoke and summery feels. A dried sprig of thyme is torched for garnish, perhaps an invitation to send actual smoke signals to your date with a cocktail napkin. Two poofs = you're hot; three poofs = you va got a nice booty; anything after four – let's make babies.

Cucina's burrata + tomatoes achieves ultimate food flattery for almost any drink on the menu. The ooey-gooey, creamy burrata curds meld with heirloom tomatoes, hearts of palm and briny Gaeta olives worth fighting over. The cheese spreads like soft butter on the crispy ciabatta toast, giving a satisfying crunch. If you're into carbs like I am...don't feel shy about asking for extra bread to sop up every last drop. Various pizzas (try the date, ricotta and bacon with egg), house-made pasta (go for the bucatini) and small plates round out the great options for sharing.

Although the word *enoteca* translates to "wine repository," cocktail curious winos can easily find a drink or two that will send them down the cocktail rabbit hole for years to come.

Eat & Drink This Now

» GREG NAGEL

CUCINA ENOTECA
951 Newport Center Dr., Newport Beach, (949) 706-1416, also at Irvine Spectrum, 532 Spectrum Center Dr., Irvine, (949) 861-2222, www.urbankitchengroup.com.

ANNAPURNA PICTURES

All Dialed Up

Sorry to Bother You is the best kind of interruption for Hollywood

BY AIMEE MURILLO

Boots Riley's directorial feature, *Sorry to Bother You*, could be the satirical comedy film of this generation—or, at least, it should be. With its bold, original storyline and firebrand comedy chops, it's a wildly surreal, outlandish romp imbued with radical politics and an awareness of societal struggles such as urban poverty; political movements such as Occupy Wall Street and Black Lives Matter; and more absurd, distracting facets such as YouTube culture and ridiculous entertainment media. Written descriptions of this film fail to really encapsulate Riley's full vision, as it madly defies viewer expectations with aplomb and ease.

Sorry to Bother You takes place in the not-too-distant future in Oakland, where young Cassius Green (*Atlanta*'s Lakeith Stanfield) lands a job as a telemarketer for the morally ambiguous mega-corporation Regal View. Living in his uncle's garage and four months behind on rent, Cassius needs the commission-based gig badly, but he flops hard in his attempts to secure sales, despite his friendly nature and his following the company policy to STTS, or "Stick to the Script." His co-worker Langston (Donald Glover) leans in and advises Cassius to use his "white voice" when on telemarketing calls to secure sales. "And I don't mean Will Smith white," Langston clarifies. "The kind of white where you don't have any worries, you don't need this job, and you're going to walk out of here and drive home in your Ferrari."

Skeptical at first, Cassius utilizes an inner white voice (actually, David Cross' voice) and becomes one of Regal View's most promising power callers, quickly ascending the corporate ladder to a more white-collar position.

Cassius' success is complicated by his loyalty to his friends at the company; they want to form a union to demand livable wages and decent benefits. His compadres include his best friend, Salvador (Jermaine Fowler); his fiancee, Detroit (Tessa Thompson), and Squeeze (Steven Yeun), a seasoned labor organizer. By accepting his new power caller position, Cassius turns his back on his friends and co-workers fighting for a union, to answer the siren song of the cushy gold elevator and hefty salary that beckons him.

Weighing even more on Cassius' conscious is the knowledge of what Regal View power callers are selling: cheap human labor to foreign countries provided by a cultish worker-encampment colony called Worry Free, where families are promised livable accomodations by signing away their rights and performing menial factory jobs. Detroit, an artist and activist with pseudo-anarchist group Left Eye, openly protests Worry Free and its maniacal founder, Steve Lift (Armie Hammer), who ensnares Cassius in a most grotesque capitalist scheme in the film's third act.

Before directing this film, Riley had been a longtime activist, rapper and lyricist for the rap group the Coup (who provide the film's soundtrack). Riley had been wanting to make *Sorry to Bother You* for years to draw on his own experiences as a telemarketer, and according to *Rolling Stone*, he released his finished screenplay through Dave Eggers' publishing house. Hollywood took notice and funded the project, with Riley in tow to direct.

The end result feels reminiscent of the work of filmmakers such as Spike Lee, Terry Gilliam, Mike Judge and Hal Ashby, but Riley is his own kind of filmmaker, and he handles the zany, madcap energy of *Sorry* with cohesion and finesse as he connects it all together. At one point, Cassius tries to reveal Regal View's perverse crimes to the apathetic public and is comforted by Langston, who advises, "People can feel so powerless to stop a problem that they decide to get used to the problem." His pep talk reinforces the idea that potential for change lies within everyone, even in little ways, and small efforts can collectively lead to bigger solutions. That's Riley's own activist voice talking, and it's a central message that can definitely resonate with audiences at this time, as well as in hard times to come.

What solidifies *Sorry to Bother You* even more is its fantastic cast. Stanfield is a delight as an Everyman, while Thompson steals the show (especially with her bold, colorful wardrobe, statement jewelry and humorous performance-art-piece scene). As crazed, drug-fueled Lift, Hammer has great comic delivery that bounces off Stanfield beautifully. Oakland, too, becomes its own character in the way Riley and cinematographer Doug Emmett capture its stellar urban scenery and showcase its distinct personality and cool.

Sorry to Bother You radiates with a kind of youthful joie de vivre that feels neither forced nor contrived, and despite its WTF-level weirdness, it provides a positive antidote to the weird reality in which we already live. It's the best kind of satire, one that leaves its message on the table and allows viewers to pick it up and run with it on their own. Riley has clearly broken through with this debut, and it'll be exciting to see where he takes his vision next.

AMURILLO@OCWEEKLY.COM

SORRY TO BOTHER YOU

was written and directed by Boots Riley, and stars Lakeith Stanfield, Tessa Thompson and Jermaine Fowler

Yellow Rose of Leisureland

BY MATT COKER

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

Won't You Be My Neighbor? This documentary takes you to the heart of the late Fred Rogers' career. *Regency South Coast Village, 1561 W. Sunflower Ave., Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Thurs., July 5, 11:45 a.m., 2:15, 4:45, 7:15 & 9:35 p.m. $12-$11; also at Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, 25471 Rancho Niguel Rd., Laguna Niguel (949) 831-0446. Thurs., July 5, 12:15, 2:35, 5, 7:45 & 10:05 p.m. $9.50-$12.50; and Art Theatre, 2025 E. Fourth St., Long Beach (562) 438-5435. Thurs., July 5, 1:30, 3:30, 5:30 & 7:30 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

Rebel Without a Cause. Frida unveils Warner Bros.' 4K restoration of Nicholas Ray's 1955 classic. *The Frida Cinema, 305 E. Fourth St., Santa Ana, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., July 5, 3, 5:30 & 8 p.m.; Sun., 5:30 & 8 p.m. $7-$10.*

Throne of Blood. Akira Kurosawa's 1957 adaptation sets Shakespeare's *Macbeth* in feudal Japan. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Thurs., July 5, 3:30, 6 & 8:30 p.m., Sat., 5:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

Fireworks. Two junior-high guys are hot for the same girl, who runs away from home with one of them. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., July 5, 7 p.m. (original Japanese with English subtitles); Sat., 12:55 p.m. (dubbed) $12.50.*

Star Wars: The Last Jedi. Luke Skywalker helps Rey develop her newly discovered abilities. Bring pillows, blankets or low chairs. *Hotel Irvine, 17800 Jamboree Rd., Irvine; www.hotelirvine.com/movenights. Fri., doors open, 6 p.m., screening, dusk. $10.*

Clambake. In the 1967 rom-musical, Elvis Presley plays a wealthy young man who experiences life outside his privileged upbringing by trading places with a water-skiing instructor. Bring a picnic, blankets and lawn chairs. Food trucks are on site. *Orange County Great Park, Palm Court, 6950 Marine Way, Irvine, ocgp.org. Fri., doors open, 6:30 p.m.; screening, dusk. Free.*

The Greatest Showman. Michael Gracey's 2017 bio-musical is based on the life of P.T. Barnum. Movie seating is first-come, first-served. *The Source OC, 6940 Beach Blvd., Buena Park, (714) 521-8858; www.thesourceoc.com. Fri., 7 p.m. Free.*

Jaws. Steven Spielberg's 1975 triple-Oscar winner. Chairs are provided, but seating is first come, first seated. *Fashion Island, Neiman Marcus Bloomingdale's Courtyard, 401 Newport Center Dr., Newport Beach; www.shopfashionisland.com. Fri., check-in, 7:30 p.m., screening, dusk. $10 (includes popcorn).*

The LEGO Ninjago Movie. A teenager enlists his ninja pals to bring down his evil warlord of a father. *Lake Forest Sports Park, 28000 Rancho Pkwy., Lake Forest; ca-lakeforest.civicplus.com. Fri., 7:30 p.m. Free.*

Inside Out. A happy, hockey-loving 11-year-old Midwestern girl experiences the basic emotions inside her gradually coming to life. *Willow Park, 1625 W. Crone Ave., Anaheim, publicaffairs.disneyland.com/community/celebratesummer/. Fri., 7:45 p.m. Free.*

Mary Poppins. Odd nanny Mary Poppins literally floats down from the clouds to lead the Banks children on adventures. Bring blankets. *San Gorgonio Park, 2916 Via San Gorgonio, San Clemente; www.san-clemente.org/recreation-community/special-events. Fri., 8 p.m. Free.*

The Sandlot. A new kid in town tries to fit in by playing baseball with a ball signed by Babe Ruth. *Arovista Park, 415 W. Elm St., Brea, (714) 990-7112. Fri., 8 p.m. Free.*

Space Jam. Michael Jordan posts up Bugs Bunny and throws an elbow into the bill of Daffy Duck, causing Porky Pig to go all Yosemite Sam on his ass. Put your ass on a blanket or chair you bring. Vendors on site sell food and drinks. *Stanton Central Park, 10660 Western Ave., Stanton, (714) 890-4270. Fri., 8 p.m. Free.*

An American Werewolf in London. American friends David and Jack backpack through the misty moors of Britain, where they are attacked by a large wolf. David survives with a bite, but Jack is brutally killed—only to return to haunt his pal. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Fri.-Sat., 8:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

McKellen: Playing the Part. Documentary on the life of legendary actor Sir Ian McKellen. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Sat.-Sun., 11 a.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

Peter Rabbit. The 2018 live-action/animated comedy was adapted from the classic Beatrix Potter tale and updated to modern sensibilities. *Orange County Great Park, Terraced Lawn, ocgp.org. Sat., doors open, 6:30 p.m., screening, dusk.*

Honey, I Shrunk the Kids. The 1989 live-action Disney movie has an inventor thinking his experimental shrink-ray device is a failure—until he discovers his children and their friends have somehow become a quarter-inch tall. *Craig Regional Park, 3300 State College Blvd., Fullerton, (714) 973-3180. Sat., 8 p.m. Free, free parking starting at 6 p.m.*

Yellow Submarine. It's a 50th anniversary screening of the cartoon that was made at the height of the Beatles' popularity. *Regency South Coast Village, Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Sun., 5 p.m., Tues., 7:30 p.m. $8-$11.*

Back to the Future. Marty McFly must deal with inadvertently interfering with his parents' budding romance after he and his pal Doc Brown time travel back three decades. *Segerstrom Center for the Arts, Julianne and George Argyros Plaza, 600 Town Center Dr., Costa Mesa, (714) 556-2787. Mon., activities, 5:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

Bolshoi Ballet: *Giselle.* The legendary dance company presents a 2015 production of the 150-year-old piece. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Mon., 7 p.m. $12.50.*

Raiders of the Lost Ark. The first flick in the Spielberg/Lucas popcorn franchise. *Directors Cut Cinema at Regency Rancho Niguel, (949) 831-0446. Tues., 7:30 p.m. $8.*

The Met Live in HD: *Eugene Onegin.* The Tchaikovsky opera is sung in Russian with English subtitles. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Wed., 1 & 7 p.m. $12.50.*

Ikiru. Kurosawa's 1952 drama about an aging bureaucrat reeling from stomach cancer and fears that his life will soon end without having had meaning. *The Frida Cinema, thefridacinema.org. Wed.-Thurs., July 11-12, 3, 5:30 & 8:30 p.m. $7-$10.*

Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2. The team travels to the outer reaches of the cosmos to unravel the mystery of the family tree of Peter Quill/Star-Lord. *Fullerton Public Library, Osborne Auditorium, 353 W. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton, (714) 738-6327. Wed., 4 p.m. Free.*

Downsizing. FPL Arthouse presents Andrew Payne's 2017 sci-fi drama. *Fullerton Public Library, Osborne Auditorium, (714) 738-6327. Wed., 8 p.m. Free.*

The Lord of the Rings: The Fellowship of the Ring. Peter Jackson's 2001 adventure film about a young Hobbit who is entrusted with an ancient ring. *Regency South Coast Village, Santa Ana, (714) 557-5701. Wed., 7:30 p.m. $9.*

Forrest Gump. The 2014 dramedy about the titular idiot hauled in six Oscars and $677 million at the box office. I don't get it. *Fullerton Public Library, Osborne Auditorium, (714) 738-6327. Thurs., July 12, 1 p.m. Free.*

My Little Pony: The Movie. Twilight Sparkle, Applejack, Rainbow Dash, Pinkie Pie, Fluttershy and Rarity embark on an epic journey to save Ponyville from a dark force. *Orange Public Library, Community Room, 407 E. Chapman Ave., Orange, (714) 288-2400. Thurs., July 12, 2 p.m. Free.*

The Wiz. Sidney Lumet's 1978 musical fantasy adds soul to *The Wizard of Oz*. Bring chairs, blankets and a picnic dinner. *Centennial Park, 14722 Devonshire Ave., Tustin, (714) 573-3326. Thurs., July 12, activities, 5:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

Trolls. Poppy, the happiest Troll ever born, and the curmudgeonly Branch set off on a journey to rescue her friends. Bring dinner or purchase food on site. *Civic Center Sunken Gardens, 8200 Westminster Blvd., Westminster, (714) 895-2860. Thurs., July 12, activities, 6:30 p.m., screening, dusk. Free.*

Muse. Drones World Tour. It's a one-night-only screening of the concert movie plucked from the monster band's 2015-16 tour. *Art Theatre, (562) 438-5435. Thurs., July 12, 7 & 9 p.m. $8.50-$11.50.*

360 Days—Legends. Champions. Survivors. The grueling life on the road for professional wrestlers. *Various theaters; www.fathomevents.com. Thurs., July 12, 7 p.m. $12.50.*

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Beyond Disney

Magical visions inhabit a new exhibit at Hilbert Museum of California Art

BY DAVE BARTON

Walt Disney's *Sleeping Beauty* was something of a boondoggle when it opened in 1959. Critics were unimpressed, many convinced that this particular goldmine had been dug one too many times before. Back at a time when reviews mattered, audiences stayed away in droves, and the film tanked at the box office. It was an expensive, time-consuming film because of the hand-drawn animation, and the poor reception poisoned the studio's attitude toward cartoons enough that they didn't make another animated feature for 30 years.

Whatever one may think about Disney's bastardized fairy tales, all of these years later, *Sleeping Beauty* is now considered a neglected classic, something quite different than its predecessors. The film's concepts, fantastic backgrounds and bright use of color were developed by late painter Eyvind Earle, informed by his study of medieval illuminated manuscripts. You can see a handful of those images at Hilbert Museum of California Art's "Magical Visions: The Enchanted Worlds of Eyvind Earle," but the exhibit isn't about the work the artist did for Disney.

MORE THAN FANBOY ART

COURTESY OF HILBERT MUSEUM OF CALIFORNIA ART

Curated by Joan Szasz, the emphasis is on Earle's idyllic landscape oils, a beady, colorful blend of lush valleys and mountainsides, sometimes dotted by a trio of grazing bovine, peppered with trees sporting generous leafy canopies. Sunlight makes the trees sparkle as though they're crusted with jewels. The greens are so green they're almost fluorescent. The scenery and vegetation look like Mother Nature at a quilting bee. Not that these ideal vistas are realistic, they rest peacefully somewhere between the Neverland of *Peter Pan* (which Earle also worked on) and a pristine, imaginative vision of California's Central Valley.

Tree trunks down the center segment some of the landscapes as if we're in a forest peering between branches. In others, we're standing at the top of one hill looking into the expansive valley below us. Ever aware of where the light is coming from, shadows stretch at dusk, the earth dusted with the last gold of the day. Sometimes the landscape is eclipsed by fog that hangs in the air, obscuring the scenery, leaving us with nature that's at once ghostly and full of secrets.

A number of Earle's serigraphs are also included, and while they often feature the same worshipful fascination of nature, they're simpler, the emotion more muted than in the oil paintings. Earle's eye-boggling use of color comes into even sharper contrast when compared to the numerous black-and-white sketches filling one gallery. Desultory and uninteresting, they look like a minor step in a process that will only come to life when the artist infuses them with his brighter palette.

Of note is other non-Disney ephemera including several delightful Christmas cards, so simple but specific they deserve their own exhibition. Beginning as linocut prints made for friends, the resulting 800-plus designs Earle created over the years ended up selling more than 300 million copies. Tiny engaging masterpieces, Szasz links them with the larger, more opulent pieces, framing and mounting them with the same respect he gives the other work.

Walk down the aisle of any comic convention and the visages of your favorite characters from inked page and silver screen can easily be purchased. Problem is, they're essentially fan art, the wall-poster-sized equivalent of a bootleg. If it doesn't matter to you that the original creators aren't getting anything from these pieces, spend away. If you want the real deal, however, purchase the work of an artist such as Robert Bailey, whose Marvel, *Star Wars* and Disney characters are all licensed, original, one-of-a-kind pieces of art, instead of mass-produced prints.

You can see the quality in the work up close with a casual stroll from the Earle paintings in the front of the Hilbert to the modest "A New Hope: The *Star Wars* Art of Robert Bailey" in the gallery in back. Ignore the signage that says the *Star Wars* illustrations are production art from the film. They aren't. LucasFilm commissioned the work from Bailey a decade ago, way after the films had come out. Initially reluctant because he wasn't familiar with the movies—his previous work focused on war combat illustrations—George Lucas eventually talked him into it by describing the film series as a World War II film.

Let me proffer that I'm not a fan of Lucas' space operas, so I'm not approaching the work with the spirit of a fanboy, whom I assume would be even more enthusiastic. Curated by Hilbert director Mary Platt, it's hard not to be impressed by Bailey's deft capture of the resolve of white knight Luke Skywalker, the serene gray dignity of Obi-Wan Kenobi, or the ruthless Hitlerian Darth Vader. Bailey not only gets their likenesses right in his graphite pencil drawings, but he also gives the characters an ease and grace—especially Mark Hamill, Harrison Ford and Carrie Fisher—a comfort in their bodies that all three took decades growing into.

"MAGICAL VISIONS: THE ENCHANTED WORLDS OF EYVIND EARLE" AND "A NEW HOPE | THE *STAR WARS* ART OF ROBERT BAILEY"
at Hilbert Museum of California Art, 167 Atchison St., Orange, (714) 516-5880, www.hilbertmuseum.com. Open Tues.-Sat., 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Oct. 13. Free

ARTSOVERLOAD

» AIMEE MURILLO

July 6-12

ANNE'S TREASURES TOTE BAGS At this workshop, seniors older than 65 paint their own creative tote bags. Thurs. July 12, 10 a.m. $5 members, free. Rewers Museum 2002 N. Main St., Santa Ana, (714) 567-3600, www.bowers.org.

"BREAKING THE RULES OF THE PAST A RETROSPECTIVE BY MUTLU ERTAC" Ertac is a painter who uses rich bold colors and large brushstrokes to visualize contemporary still lives and portraits. Open Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Through Aug. 31. Free. Soka University Founders Hall Art Gallery, 1 University Dr., Aliso Viejo, (949) 480-4237, www.soka.edu.

"COLOR COLECTIVA" Second-annual summer group show focused on utilizing color in distinct ways. Open Tues.-Sun., 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Ongoing. Free. SALTfineart Gallery, 346 N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach, (949) 715-5554, saltfineart.net.

"DIGITAL DIPTYCHS" Robert Arbogast superimposes QR codes over faces and photographic images, and when read through a reader, hidden messages are revealed. Open Tues.-Sun., noon-4 p.m. Through Aug. 18. Free. Muckenthaler Cultural Center, 1201 W. Malvern Ave., Fullerton, (714) 738-6595, themuck.org.

HELLO, DOLLY! The classic musical about 1930s matchmaker Dolly Gallagher Levi who travels to New York to find a match for an older millionaire, bringing along the millionaire's family and associates. Thurs.-Sat., 8 p.m., Sun., 2 p.m. Through Aug. 5. $26-$30. Gem Theater, 12852 Main St., Garden Grove, (714) 741-9550, www.gemtheatergroup.com.

"IT'S TIME" A women's group show examining the current #metoo and #timesup movements and #metoo stories. Open Thurs.-Sun., noon-5 p.m. Through Aug. 11. Free. Orange County Center for Contemporary Art, 117 N. Sycamore St., Santa Ana. (714) 667-1517, www.occca.org.

MILLION DOLLAR QUARTET A musical based on a fateful jam recording session involving 1950s rock & roll artists Elvis Presley, Jerry Lee Lewis, Carl Perkins and Johnny Cash. Tues.-Wed. & Fri., 7:30 p.m., Thurs. & Sat. 2 & 7:30 p.m., Sun., 1 & 5:30 p.m. Through July 29. $75-$105. Laguna Playhouse, 606 Cenyon Rd., Laguna Beach. (949) 497-2787, www.lagunaplayhouse.com.

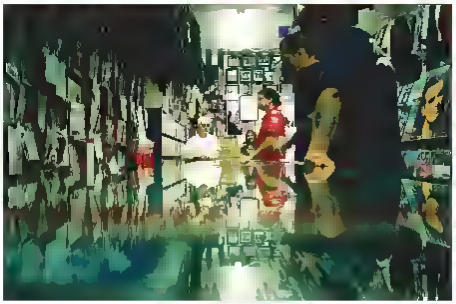
"STRUCTURES" Dominique McKenzie produces abstract, mixed-media paintings. Open daily, noon-5 p.m. & by appointment. Through July 30. Sandstone Laguna Gallery, 384-A N. Coast Hwy., Laguna Beach. (949) 497-6775, www.sandstonegallery.com.

Bye Bye, Black Hole

Downtown Fullerton's punk-rock record shop moves after 27 years

BY TAYLOR HAMBY

A HAVEN TO LOITERERS AND LEGENDS ALIKE



COURTESY OF BLACK HOLE RECORDS

Fullerton's punk-rock history has recently taken back-to-back blows in a mosh pit of bummer news. First, word that the city's longest-running record store, Black Hole Records, is moving from the brick-and-mortar shop it has called home for the past 27 years hit like a gut punch from a rogue, leather-jacket-clad elbow. Then, the passing of Steve Soto, founding member of formative Fullerton punk band the Adolescents, hit the scene like a Dr. Martens' steel toe to the dome.

Both stories are separate, yet entangled, like two strands of barbed wire coiled around a bicep. Bill Evans, owner of Black Hole Records, and Soto had been friends since they were just punk kids, growing up in the cradle of the county's punk scene in the late 1970s and early 1980s. In 1986, Evans named his record store after the legendary Fullerton apartment that was, according to Soto, a "crash pad of epic proportions" for punks of the day; it would be easier to list off who *didn't* live there than to name everyone who did at some point.

Evans played guitar for Naughty Women, a band in the vein of the New York Dolls from SoCal's artsy first wave of punk in the late 1970s. Soto was a wee punk in Agent Orange when they met; that band's first gig was opening up for Naughty Women at Malone's. Soon after, Soto joined the Adolescents, whose seminal "Blue Album" featured the iconic anthem "Kids of the Black Hole."

Agent Orange performed at Black Hole Records' grand-opening party in '86, when it was located where the Brea Improv originally stood. "There was a riot," Evans recalls fondly. "They played on the roof, and someone called the cops."

The Adolescents also made in-store appearances in the shop's early days.

Evans and Soto would both eventually serve as de-facto encyclopedias and storytellers of those early days of the county's punk-rock origins, each in their own way. Soto's retellings would be told in his meandering but astute way, often punctuated by a joyful laugh. Evans' reminiscences come out at the spitfire pace of a submachine gun.

If you were curious about OC punk history and wanted a first-hand retelling, you could call up Soto or ask him at one of his shows with the numerous bands that called him a member (including Joyride and Manic Hispanic, to name a few more). Or you could walk in the door of Black Hole Records seven days a week and ask the bleached-haired, bespectacled Evans one question and hear 10 answers. But now Evans must carry on the torch of local scene historian in a Soto-sized shadow.

"I remember picking up Steve from his house," Evans recalls. "[And] sneaking him out the window to drive him to an old-school house for Adolescents practice." He laughs and says he even remembers the night Soto lost his virginity as a teenager. "Everybody was clapping. It was one of those crazy moments. He was so happy!"

Black Hole's the kind of place you go to to get the real story, the untold tale of your favorite bands. But come September, Black Hole Records (and the adjoining Stray Cat Vintage run by Evans' wife, Anna) as local punks, Goths, misfits and Mike Ness have all come to know it will become one of those stories.

A change in ownership of the building the two stores have leased since 1991, paired with the fact their leases are up at the end of August, left the stores' future uncertain. Evans says they've reached out to the new owner, who also owns a couple of bars in the area, for comment but never heard back.

Both stores decided to start a new chapter and are moving to the opposite side of the street to what's now the SoCo District of Fullerton, in a property that Anna's family owns. They're already preparing for the huge undertaking of moving a staggering inventory that's not unlike the Black Hole described in Rikk Agnew's lyrics from "Kids of the Black Hole": "Messages and slogans are the primary decor/History's recorded in a clutter on the floor."

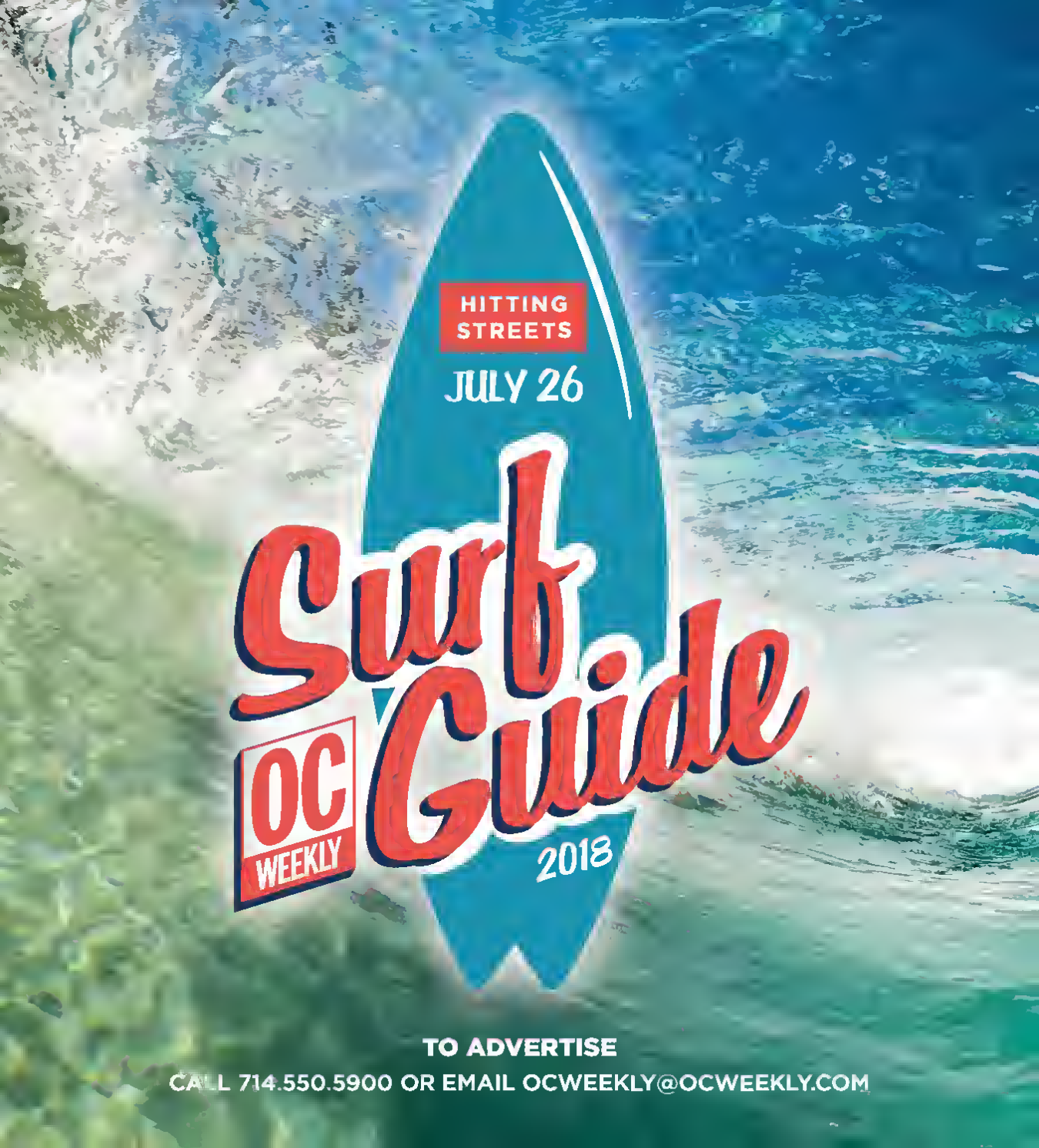
The new Black Hole will be smaller, but it's a move that's actually bringing the shop back to its early punk roots. "We're coming full-circle," observes Evans. "That parking lot used to be where we would hang out back in the day. Where the Continental [Room] is, right there, the alleyway, there's a big door; that used to be a studio called Sherpa's. The Mechanics were a band that played there, [as well as] Social D, the Adolescents. Rikk Agnew lived in there for a while. We used to party there."

Now, a new generation of Orange County punks can gather in the same space christened with 40s of Olde English by their forefathers, in this new incarnation of Black Hole Records and Stray Cat Vintage.

As for the building Black Hole Records has called house-not-a-home for the past 27 years, well, you have until sometime in August to pay your respects before it inevitably turns into some watering hole. Here's hoping "Kids of the Black Hole" is the last song heard blaring loudly from the shop before Black Hole fades to black one final time.

"No sound is heard from unit two
When there was once so much to do
Was once a green mansion, but now it's a wasteland
Our days of reckless fun are through."

TAHAMBY@OCWEEKLY.COM



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Well-Suited to Rock

Chief White Lightning masters the art of the endless hustle

BY JOSH CHESLER

Josh Logan isn't a classically trained musician. He openly admits he'd probably struggle to be even a suitable guitarist for any band for which he wasn't writing the music. But there's one place where the former from man of the Blind Pets and current Chief White Lightning ringleader really stands above the rest in the Long Beach music scene- hummus merchandising

Logan was "the bean-dip man," he says, and he could sell people hummus-based products they didn't know they needed. But one odd job wasn't enough to keep his music career afloat before moving to the South Bay from Austin early last year, so he also built signs for disc-golf courses, booked and handled the soundboard at a venue, directed music videos, ran a screenprinting business, and sold enough weed to buy the silver van that currently serves as Chief White Lightning's distribution headquarters and primary method of transportation.

Now that he's become one of Long Beach's most charismatic figures, Logan has put a halt on his cannabis-dealing ways to focus on his music—which may be the only thing keeping him on tha right side of the law. "I always thought if I didn't find music, I would be in prison or something," Logan says. "I'd be robbing banks because I'm fascinated with that, for whatever reason. It's just cool because it's like getting one over on the system, tha insurance takes care of them, nobody dies, and it's all good. My grandfather was in the Chicago mafia, and my great-grandfather was a Tennessee moonshiner, so I have crime in my family."

Months before he'd be ready to give up his unlawful business, but just after being laid off from slinging hummus, Logan found himself growing bored with his hometowo of Austin, Texas It was 2016, and SXSW had rolled around; while working in a tent as a screen-printer for a guacamole company, the talkative musician struck up a conversatino with Michelle Molina, one of Long Beach's strongest developmental forces The struggling musician wasn't sure whether to believe in Molina's promise of a concert slot in Long Beach, but the Millworks matriarch not only made good on her word in the coming months, but she also ended up helping to facilitate Logan's relocation.

JACK GRISHAM

"[Molina] added us to a show at Alex's Bar and paid us out of her own fucking pocket—which is huge if you're a musician on tour," Logan says. "If you could find one person in 15 cities who would do that, your band would be successful. Not only did she do that, but she bought a bunch of merch, too. Then she flew me in a couple of times to see how we'd work together, and then right at the same time as I signed to El Camino Media in LA, she gave me a job It was serendipitous. The universe was pulling me here."

Now that he's firmly settled m to his Long Beach surroundings, Chief White Lightning can focus on his self-titled debut record. With tracks ranging from a tribute to Logan's Snoop Dogg-loving single mother to "a sad bastard's love song" about wanting to rescue a beautiful gas-station clerk from her mundane reality (only to realize she's quit her job when he next returns to the convenience store), the songwriter continues to use his tunes to take some of the sting out of mundane life

"Art takes these idle thoughts that you have that are constantly rolling through your bead and shows you some translation of that feeling," Logan says "Listening to music keeps the demons out—or in, wherever you want them. That's my whole goal with music, in general. I want to take that person who's working a shitty job in Whereverville and make their lives cool for three minutes and 25 seconds."

CHIEF WHITE LIGHTNING
performs with Devil Season, the Entire Universe and BnyToy at the Wayfarer, 843 W 19th St., Costa Mesa, (949) 764-0039, www.wayfarercm com Fri , 8 p m $5 21+

COURTESY OF THE SUGAR

Friday

THE BLACK DAHLIA MURDER, WHITE CHAPEL 5:30 p.m., $25, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583. www.houseofblues.com/anaheim

CELSO PIÑA 9 p.m., $25, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995. www.martysonnewport.com

CHIEF WHITE LIGHTNING, DEVIL SEASON, THE ENTIRE UNIVERSE, BOYTOY 8 p.m., $5, 21+. The Wayfarer, 643 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039. www.wayfarercm.com.

KRIS ROE OF THE ATARIS 8 p.m., free, 21+. The Slidehar Rock N Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton. (714) 871-7463. www.slidehardfullerton.com

LESHOK, ASSQUATCH, THE TISSUES; TERMINAL A 8 p.m., $15-$20, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach. (562) 434-8292. www.alexsbar.com.

Saturday

REATNIR BANOITO BLUES SHOW WITH SAN PEORO SLIM, JEFF ROSS, DA VALDEZ 8 p.m., free, all ages. The Barrel Room, 324 W. Fourth St., Santa Ana. (714) 204-0519. www.thebarrelroomoc.com

DAMAGE INC. 7 p.m., $15, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583. www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

EL FANTASMA, VOZ DE MANDO, KANALES 7 p.m. $40-$90, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre at the OC Fairgrounds, 100 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. (714) 708-1500. www.pacamp.com

MIYAGI, GAYC/DC 9 p.m., $7, 21+. Alex's Bar, 2913 E. Anaheim St., Long Beach. (562) 434-8292, www.alexsbar.com

PROFESSOR COLOMBO PERFORM THE RANO'S THE *LAST WALTZ* 5 p.m., $5. 21+. The Wayfarer, 643 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039. www.wayfarercm.com

SUMMERTIME IN THE LBC, WITH SNOOP DOGG, ICE CUBE, THE GAME noon, sold out, all ages. *Queen Mary*, 126 Queens Hwy., Long Beach. (877) 342-0738. www.observatoryoc.com

WANDA JACRSON 9 p.m., $20, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995. www.martysonnewport.com

Sunday

COUNTING CROWS 25 YEARS AND COUNTING 5:30 p.m., $13-$129, all ages. Five Point Amphitheatre, 14800 Chinon Ave., Irvine, www.fivepointamphitheatre.com

STRAIGHT NO CHASER; JON MCLAUGHLIN 7:30 p.m., $22-$60, all ages. Pacific Amphitheatre at the OC Fairgrounds, 100 Fair Dr., Costa Mesa. (714) 708-1500. www.pacamp.com

WANDA JACKSON; ABBY GIRL AND THE REAL DEAL, THE MOONTONES, BECKY AND THE BLACKTONES 9 p.m., $20, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin, (714) 544-1995; www.martysonnewport.com

Monday

CHRIS ROBINSON BROTHERHOOD 9 p.m., $35-$249, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995. www.martysonnewport.com.

THE SUGAR, KILO BRAVO, OAKON JACKSON 8 p.m. free, 21+. The Wayfarer, 643 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039. www.wayfarercm.com

Tuesday

CHRIS ROBINSON BROTHERHOOD 9 p.m., $35-$249, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995. www.martysonnewport.com

THE LONGSHOT, FRANKIE AND THE STUDS; THE TRASHBAGS 8 p.m. sold out, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600. www.observatoryoc.com.

MEMORY RELLS, BEACHWOOD COYOTES, TURTLES ON SPEED 9 p.m., free, 21+. The Slidehar Rock N-Roll Kitchen, 122 E. Commonwealth Ave., Fullerton. (714) 871-7463. www.slidehardfullerton.com

TWRP 7 p.m., $10, all ages. House of Blues at Anaheim GardenWalk, 400 W. Disney Way, Anaheim. (714) 778-2583, www.houseofblues.com/anaheim.

Wednesday

BARRINGTON LEVY 8 p.m., $10, all ages. The Observatory, 3503 S. Harbor Blvd., Santa Ana, (714) 957-0600. www.observatoryoc.com.

THE BLANK TAPES, MATT MCCLUER, LANITANIANS 9 p.m., $10. The Wayfarer, 643 W. 19th St., Costa Mesa. (949) 764-0039. www.wayfarercm.com

JOAN OF ARC 9 p.m., $12, 21+. Marty's On Newport, 14401 Newport Ave., Tustin. (714) 544-1995. www.martysonnewport.com

Thursday, July 12

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It Got Better

In a recent column, you said you never hear from married couples whose sex life got better and more frequent over the years. Well, now you have. My wife and I were married 24 years ago, and we are currently having more and better sex than we did in the first years of our marriage. There are many reasons why, including therapy, antidepressants, and weight loss and subsequent surgery—but I would have to say that the big reason is communication. If you had known us 25 years ago, Dan, you would not have given us good odds. We'd have daring only a year and a half when we got engaged, and we'd known each other less than two years. I was a virgin, my wife was not, together we hadn't gotten much past second base, and neither of us had laid our kink cards on the table. We were (and still are) introverts with poor communication skills and anxiety/depression/mental-health issues. I won't say it's been fairytale perfect—the kind of perfect that makes you barf and roll your eyes—but it's been pretty damn close. My wife has been incredibly GGG, and I hope I have been, too. So there you go, Dan! Now you know there's at least one couple out there whose sex life has only gotten better over the years.

Better Erotic Ties Totally Enhanced Relationship

Last week, I responded to IMDONE, a woman who married a man despite the sex being "infrequent and impersonal" during their courtship. To the surprise of no one who has ever given sex advice for a living, the sex didn't get better after IMDONE and her boyfriend got married. "Here's something I've never seen in my inbox: a letter from someone explaining how sex with their partner was infrequent, impersonal, uninspired, unimaginative, etc. at first but—*holy moly*—the sex got a fuck of a lot better after the wedding," I wrote in my response to IMDONE. I did allow for the possibility that my sample was skewed; people with good sex lives don't write to tell me everything's fine. So I invited people whose so-so sex lives improved after the wedding to write in. And did they ever. My inbox is packed with emails from couples whose sex lives got better after the wedding.

I was a very experienced woman (five years as a swinger and partners numbering in the high double digits) when I first met the man who would become my husband. My husband-to-be was a virgin. Sex was barely okay and very infrequent. But we were both in our early 40s and ready to settle down. We also had an amazing friendship, and we were never as happy apart as we were together. It helped that we shared some kinks and were both up for what we agreed would be a nice, mostly companionate marriage. So we got married. And, wow, did everything change! We went from once a month to a couple of times a week. Turns out he needed that emotional attachment to feel safe and secure enough to open up and relax and enjoy himself. We've been married for years now. The sex is still good. It's not as frequent as it once was, but it's really good when we have it. So, yes, sometimes it does get better!

Woman Is Fucking Ecstasy

Am I the first or the hundredth person to write in? Yes, sex for us got better after marriage. I suspect you don't see it in your inbox very often because this isn't what most people would consider a problem and we don't want to waste your time! All it took for the sex to get better was practice and paying attention to cues and solving problems. I strongly suspect that perseverance and a fair of luck were also major factors.

Practice, Practice, Practice

My sex life improved after marriage. I am a straight male with a highly stigmatized kink. I was deeply ashamed of my sexual interest even before my mother discovered my porn when I was 14 and told me I was a pervert that no decent woman would ever want. When I met my wife, our sex life was okay—but I was never fully present because I would have to concentrate on my fantasies in order to sustain an erection. I eventually retreated into masturbation. My wife knew I was masturbating in the middle of the night instead of having sex with her, and that led to some enormous fights. So I told her about my kink, fully expecting that it would result in the collapse of my marriage. We didn't speak about it for a week, and then she calmly asked me if I wanted to do this with her instead of just watching porn about it.

Partnership Improved Sexual Situation

I fucked my husband on our first date because I wanted to see if he was any good. He wasn't. But I liked him, so we kept at it. I have some physical ailments that can make sex painful. I also suffer from depression and anxiety, I'm on the autism spectrum, and I've experienced sexual trauma. I've addressed my problems through counseling, medication, physical therapy, even surgery. My problems are not 100 percent fixed, and we don't have sex as often as either of us would like, but when we have it, it's worlds better than when we started out. For me being comfortable with my husband and secure in the relationship made it so much easier to communicate and work on fixing the problems together. It sounds cheesy, but marriage counseling really helped. It helped my husband understand himself and his reactions better and it helped cement the idea of "ours" instead of "yours" as it related to the problems I was dealing with at the time. That he was willing to see a counselor and work on sex were also good signs. If I had a partner who was unwilling to talk about sex or try to fix it, I'd kick his ass to the curb without blinking. So with the help of counseling, I got him on board with dirty talk during sex (because it's important for me) and I worked (and still work) on telling him what to do when we're done. He can't read my body language, so a lot of the improvement came down to me being more comfortable with giving him instructions. We also have plenty of sex that isn't P in V, which takes the pressure off both of us. I imagine you probably don't hear from folks like us because, in addition to being less likely, we don't have much to write in about. But we exist!

Counseling Helped Our Marriage Persist

My sex life actually did get better after I married my partner. I struggled with erectile dysfunction during my courtship with my wife. It really didn't settle down until we'd been married for a while. I had trust issues and guilt issues—boring stories—and I put a lot more comfortable once we'd made that commitment. Now, we have two kids, and we have sex almost weekly. (Hey, that's good for 40-year-olds!) I doubt it's the norm, Dan, but that's what happened with me.

Enduring Relationship Eased Cock Troubles

First, I want to thank BETTER, WIFE, PPP, PISS, CHOMP, ERECT and everyone else who wrote in. I do feel obligated to point out, however, that these are anecdotes not data. And while there isn't data to back up my position—that sex doesn't generally get better after marriage—my pile of anecdotes is a whole lot bigger. So I'm going to continue to urge people to establish basic sexual compatibility before marriage rather than hoping a so-so sexual connection—or a nonexistent one—will somehow get better after marriage. But it can be done. You just need to have PPP's luck or be married to someone willing to do the work, like CHOMP's spouse was, or fortunate enough to wind up with someone willing to take the leak, like PISS's spouse was.

On the Lovecast *(savagelovecast.com), Justin Lehmiller on the true nature of sexual fantasies. Contact Dan via mail@savagelovecast.net, follow him @fakedansavage, and visit ITMFA.org*

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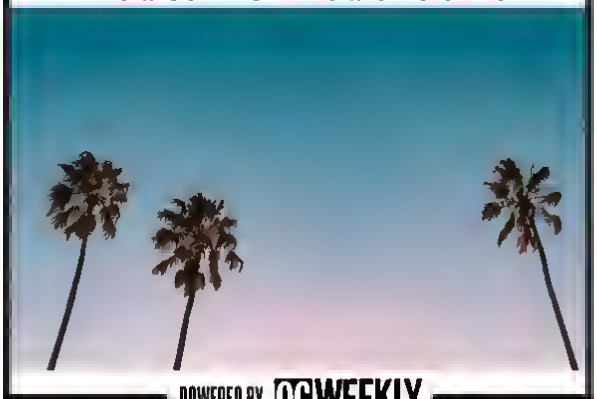

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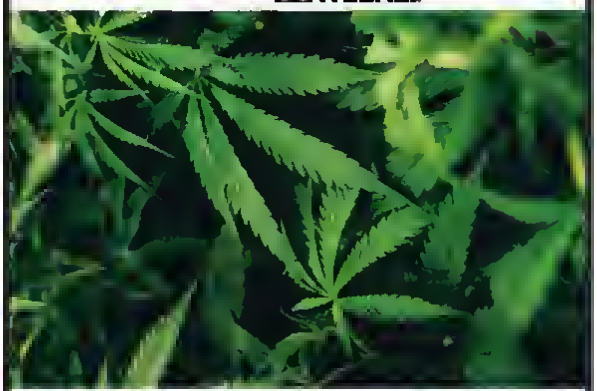

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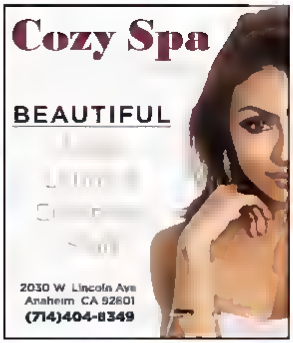

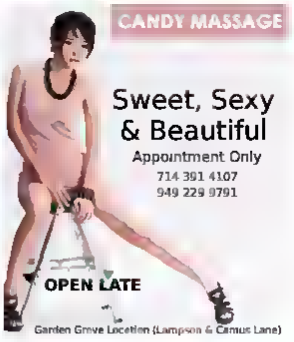

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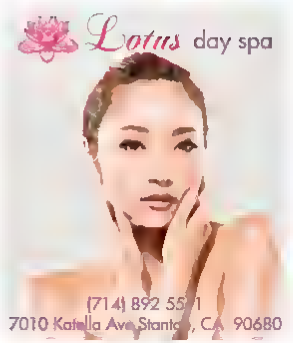

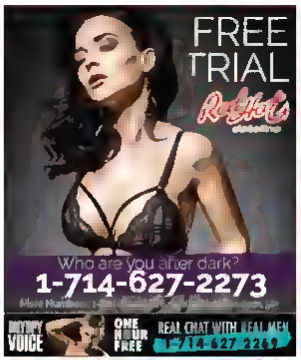

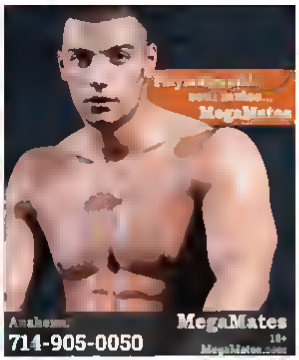

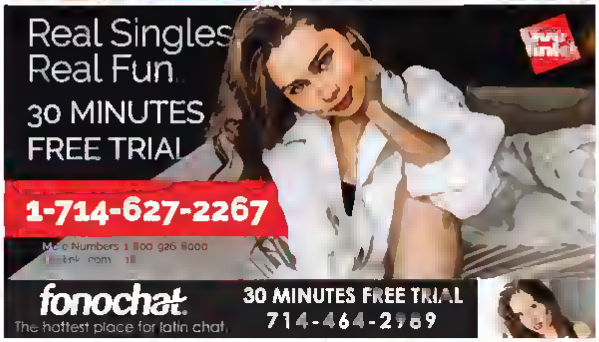

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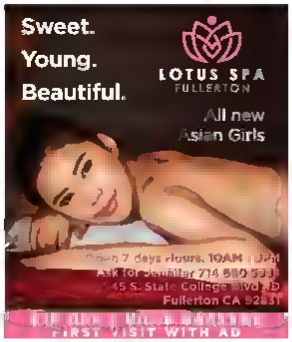

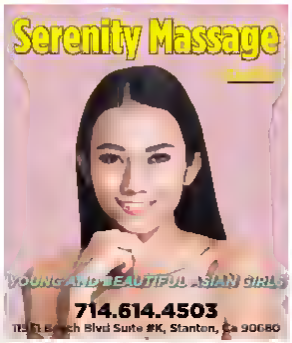

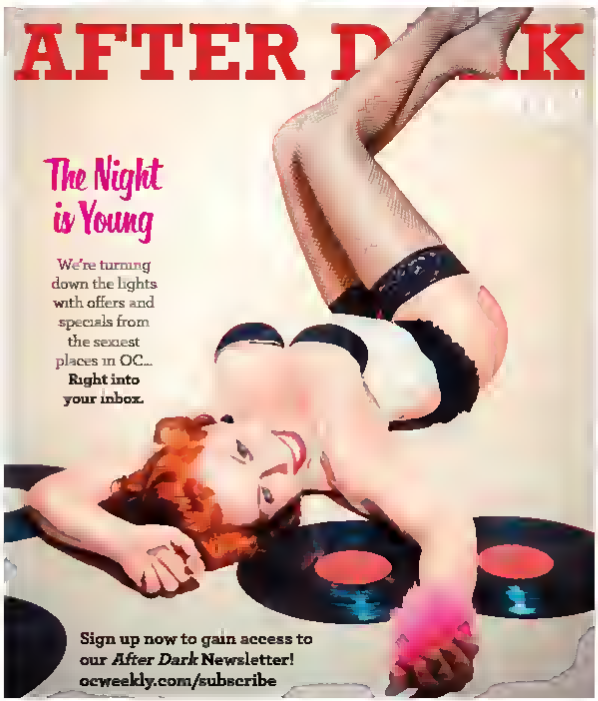
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Don't Do It

Considering suicide? Please reconsider that jerky move

BY JIM WASH BURN

Did you make it through July 4 okay? This was written beforehand, so I don't know how many palm tree fires or riots may have resulted. OC has a long history of holiday riots. How do they start? At least two in the 1980s—one in HB, one on the Balboa Peninsula—ignited after a couple of bikini tops came off. Guys get so agitated by nipples that it's a wonder babies don't riot at the sight of them.

The human mind is a strange thing. Since most of us have one, let's talk about it. (Spoiler alert. We're about to pivot from nipples to suicide here, so settle down.)

A few weeks ago, I woke in a not terribly good state at 5 a.m., having been with a friend at a hospital emergency ward until 1 a.m. because he'd shown up at my door hallucinating that hundreds of strangers were trying to murder him—the result, he guessed, of having vaped something dosed with something else. Five hours of de-apparating imaginary thugs is more exhausting than one might expect, so I woke frazzled and musing on the fragile foundations of human consciousness.

Facebook is not necessarily the antidote for that. The first post I read said, "Oh, no, not Anthony Bourdain!" At my age, any message like that, just like any phone call after 10 p.m., means someone has died. The news confirmed that, and I wept. Bourdain's *Parts Unknown* was one of the most soulful and life-packed things I've ever seen on TV, and the chef struck me as one of the most assured, together, passionate and purposeful cats around.

What do we ever know about the battles raging inside someone else's head, until there's a casualty?

If you have not personally known someone who committed suicide, you almost certainly have friends or co-workers who have lost loved ones that way. Suicide has practically become America's No. 1 indoor sport. I nearly joined the team myself when I was 19. Having spent a long time then thinking about existence and nothingness, I took it as a personal affront that none of it made sense, that consciousness was perhaps the worst gift imaginable in a universe that had no reason to be. Oh, and my girlfriend had broken up with me.

So I wired the wall socket's 120-volt current to a Kustom guitar-amp footswitch, wrapped wires around either hand and put my favorite album on the GE Trimline stereo. When it hit the end of *Pet Sounds*, I was going to step on the switch. (Rather than death, I've since learned, the shock would more likely have given me a really bad perm.)

Before that happened, a friend called out of the blue and asked if I wanted to go get a hot chocolate. So I did that instead and never looked back.

If I haven't killed myself, the rest of you sons of hitches don't get to either, okay? It might not seem like it to you, but we need one another. No matter how much pain you are in, no matter how useless, unloved and inconsequential you might feel, there are almost certainly lives that you have touched in ways you might not be aware of, not to mention all the lives you might yet touch. So hang around for those people, if not for yourself. You might think it's just you, the room you're in and death, but believe me, when you exit this world, it's through a hole torn in other people's lives.

However difficult being you might seem to be, imagine being you, plus the added burden of having a mother, brother, sister or best friend who took his or her own life, of knowing your presence in that life wasn't enough to keep them here.

Is that a burden you want to lay on someone? You might think there's some satisfaction in the finality of your act making others realize how lonely/wronged/unique/pained/not-getting-laid you were, but you won't be around to see that, will you?

And what if death is a whole lot worse than your unbearable life? Maybe you rise through the light into a pink cloud of puppies and mimosas. But what if it's the Sunken Place, you tumbling through eternity alone with just yourself? What if, untethered from this world, your consciousness spews nightmares and dread for time without end?

Plus, you'd miss the next *Thin Man* marathon on TCM. If Stephen Hawking could hang around and make something of the cards life dealt him, you can, too.

Life hasn't all been hot cocoa and marshmallows for me. In retrospect, I was depressed out of my gourd for years. One advantage of such a concentrated dose is that with time, friends, books, records and luck, depression gets so tedious and familiar that finding your way out of it becomes easier than staying. I've had depressed funks since then, but they seem self-indulgent to me now, since they sure do no one else any good. Plus, if life's struggles and sorrows don't depress you, you're not paying attention. The Buddha wasn't just generating memes when he said, "Life is suffering." It is, and it will make sure you know that. The trick is adding your own spin to this world, so that the suffering gets roommates—like loving, sharing, partaking, joying and all other things we can imagine between us.

I have alienated friends who were offended by my "Pollyanna" attitude in refusing to give deference to the enormity of the pain and suffering that has kept them in and out of rehab for decades. Oh, their twisted childhood! Their neuroses! Their brain chemistry! I can't fathom the hole they're in!

Yes, I can. Probably anyone can. File it under "Life is suffering." Part of the problem some folks have—I know I did—is that once you've invested so much time and effort into digging your well of depression, you OWN that effort. It's the deepest, most special hole anyone's ever dug, and it would take Jesus, the mighty Thor and the Trojan Marching Band to dig you out of it.

Or you could just take a couple of steps sideways. Consider Viktor Frankl, the author of *Man's Search for Meaning*. He lived through a fucking Nazi concentration camp; he lost his wife and other family; he lived with survivor's guilt; and he emerged from this with a new concept of psychotherapy, which I'll oversimplify here: Sure, you could spend years in analysis going over your screwed-up past. Or, he posited, you could find or create something in life you cared enough about that it pulls you into the future.

I sometimes give friends this cheerful advice: "The universe doesn't care how you feel. Why should you?"

My take is that happiness and depression are dials on your dashboard. Sure, you need to check them once in a while, but if you obsess on them, you're missing the life passing by outside the windshield. You're not feeling the breeze tickle your arm hairs. And you're driving like shit, to the detriment of you and your fellow motorists.

Happiness is the thing that sneaks up on you when you're not thinking about it, when you're engaged with making the app work, playing the right chord, making your lover come, or when someone shows up at your door needing your help.

You won't be there to answer that knock if you've offed yourself, so stay on this old planet. Give help when you can. Get help yourself when you need it. And suicide? You can do that 20 years from now if you really have to. It isn't like the world is going to run out of death any time soon.

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